Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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NMI voters now at over 15K. PAGE 2

3 grade levels achieve, surpass PSS SAT-10 targets. PAGE 3

Kilili now seeks federalization delay

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Jim Arenovski, left, and U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP), right, confer during the Chamber's monthly general membership meeting yesterday at The Palms Resort in San Roque.

▪ 'Only because DHS is not ready'
▪ Fitial admin forms 'contingency' group

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP), who has long been pushing for federalization as soon as possible, announced yesterday that he has "initiated efforts" for a one-year delay in the implementation of Public Law 110-229—"only" because the U.S. Department of Homeland Security is not ready to implement the federalization law by Nov. 28.

Sablan said this as the guest speaker in yesterday's Saipan Chamber of Commerce meeting at The Palms Resort in San Roque.

In his prepared remarks, he said that, with only 90 days before the takeover date, DHS has little presence in the CNMI "and no sign of preparation at the six ports the department is supposed to man."

See KILILI on Page 4

DUE TO 'POTENTIAL BUDGETARY SHORTFALL'

Fitial freezes new expenses except for 'critical services'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Citing "potential budgetary shortfall," Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has ordered a freeze on new obligations and expenditures using local funds—except for "emergencies affecting critical services" with prior approval—for the remainder

See FITIAL on Page 4

NMC Fall enrollment jumps 25 pct.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Enrollment at the Northern Marianas College jumped by a significant 25 percent this semester compared to the same period last year.

After a one-week extension of the registration period, NMC recorded a total of 989 students

See NMC on Page 4

Vehicle sales up 40 pct. in August

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Automotive dealers posted a 40-percent increase in new vehicle sales in August, mostly due to good consumer deals and aggressive marketing.

The Commonwealth Auto Dealers Association said yesterday it sold 60 new cars, trucks, vans and sport utility vehicles in August, compared to only 43 during the same month last year.

See VEHICLE on Page 4

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

DISASTER TRAINING

Guam Fire Corps coordinator and Guam Community Emergency Response Team instructor Louis J. Ramsey explains how to assist an accident victim using a dummy during yesterday's Community Emergency Response Team training at the Saipan World Resort's Lilac Room. About 40 individuals participated in the training that covered disaster preparedness, fire safety, disaster medical operations, light search and rescue, team organization, disaster psychology, and terrorism. The two-day workshop was organized by the CNMI Office of Homeland Security. ***See story on Page 5.***

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you intend to get a flu shot this year?

Let your voice be heard!
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PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS
PHASE 6

As of September 2, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Gigantic Blaze

Firefighters reported some progress Tuesday against a gigantic blaze on the edge of Los Angeles.

NATION...Page 15

Fish Work

Jose Tenorio Quan tells of his third summer participating in the CNMI's coral program internship.

ENVIRONMENT...Page 17

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Local

WITH 15 DAYS TO REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

NMI voters now at over 15K

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With two more weeks to the registration deadline, the Commonwealth Election Commission has already exceeded its target, with over 15,000 individuals registered to vote in this year's general elections.

As of Sept. 1, a total of 15,167 individuals have registered to vote on Nov. 7, a big bulk of which come from District 1, composed of San Antonio, with its 768 voters; San Vicente, 2,317; and Koblerville, 1,016.

Chalan Kanoa and Susupe, which comprise District 2, have a total of 1,167 registered voters.

District 3, which covers Oleai and Garapan, have a combined number of 3,152, with Oleai having 830 voters and Garapan, 2,322.

District 4 has a total registration of 1,646, broken down into Tanapag, 595; San Roque, 537; Capital Hill, 402; and Northern Islands, 112.

The Kagman areas, which belong to District 5, have a total of 2,236 registered voters.

Tinian has 1,350, while Rota has 1,515 as of this week.

The Election Commission earlier said it anticipates over 15,000 to cast their votes in November. The number is expected to significantly increase due to the agency's intensive registration campaign here and off-island.

Besides accommodating walk-in registrants at its Capital Hill office, CEC is also putting logistics units every Saturday at Price Costco to assist community members in their registration.

Registration deadline is on Sept. 18.

This week, the Election Commission will send staff off-island to assist CNMI voters.

On Saturday, Sept. 5, election staffers will at the 2009 Softball Tournament at Kit Carson Park in Escondido, California, to encourage CNMI residents to register and participate in the elections.

The registration drive will be from 8am through 3pm on Saturday and will resume the next day, Sept. 6, from 10am through 3pm.

Saipan Tribune learned that another registration drive will be conducted at the Pagoda Hotel in Honolulu, Hawaii for CNMI residents on Monday, Sept. 7, from 3pm until 7pm.

Zoning may amend regs on adult biz

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is considering amending its rules on so-called adult business establishments.

This may include transferring the adult business overlay zoning district from the main portion of Middle Road to another site because applicants are finding it hard to relocate their business there.

The law provides for a gradual phase out of less than a hundred adult businesses from Garapan to the Middle Road (from Chalan Msgr. Guerrero north to a line extending along the center of Commonwealth Avenue or south side of Sugar King Park).

The board is planning instead to move the overlay to the northern side of the Middle Road near the port area, from the Army Reserve Center to the Shell gas station in Lower Base.

Zoning board chair Henry S. Hofschneider said an owner of an adult business in Garapan had complained about failing to find a suitable area within the overlay zoning district because building or landowners refused to accommodate him. Hofschneider said this business owner had already approached seven to eight buildings and lot owners, to no avail.

Hofschneider said this should represent how any of those building or lot owners in the area would refuse any other adult business owners wanting to set up shop within the area.

"Its not practical at this point because the reality is that they have no place to go and we have to consider the economic situation. The tourism industry has gone down and there has been a reduction in their clients," Hofschneider said.

He said the government owns most of the lots in the northern part of Middle Road where they propose to create the new district. Besides, he said, the area is an ideal site due to the future redevelopment of the commercial port.

Adult businesses include most massage parlors, porn shops and strip clubs.

Judge nixes motion to revoke Pelisamen's bail

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court denied yesterday the U.S. government's motion to revoke the bail of convicted former estate administrator Luis Kaipat Pelisamen pending his sentencing.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson did not revoke Pelisamen's bail but instructed him to stay away from the house, workplace, and employer of his brother, William Kaipat.

Munson also directed Pelisamen to comply with all other bail conditions.

The judge relieved the previous third party custodian for Pelisamen and allowed his daughter, Zoetira, to assume such responsibility.

Pelisamen, through counsel Douglas Cushnie, was also allowed to argue for the defendant's motion for a new trial. Assistant U.S. Attorney Kirk Schuler opposed a new trial.

Munson placed the motion under advisement and said he would soon issue a written decision.

Pelisamen asked the court for his continued release on bail pending his sentencing or appeal.

Cushnie said Pelisamen has made no threats against his brother, Kaipat.

Pelisamen did not take action to have Kaipat fired from his job with the food stamp program, said Cushnie in opposing the motion to revoke the pre-sentence release of Pelisamen.

Pelisamen used to be the administrator of the Rita Kaipat estate. His lawyer was Joseph Arriola. The two have been convicted of wire fraud and money laundering. They were accused of unlawfully using funds that belonged to the Rita Kaipat estate.

Pelisamen is set to be sentenced on Sept. 29, 2009. The court yesterday rescheduled the sentencing to Nov. 4, 2009.

The prosecution filed a motion to revoke Pelisamen's presentence release after William Kaipat complained that "he felt threatened by Pelisamen."

3 grade levels achieve, surpass PSS SAT-10 targets

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Most primary and secondary schools in the Public School System recorded satisfying results in the Standard Achievement Test 10 last school year, according to a PSS official.

In a presentation to the Board of Education, Jackie Quitugua, PSS associate commissioner for instruction and curriculum, said most of the 20 schools under PSS met—and even surpassed—the SAT-10 goals for the last school year, which ended in June.

PSS had set a goal of 45 percentile score for all public schools in SY 2008-2009.

Data obtained by *Saipan Tribune* show that three grade levels met or surpassed the percentile rank target: the fifth, sixth, and eleventh grades.

CNMI fifth graders met the 45 percentile rank last school year. In SY 2007-2008, it surpassed by a point the PSS goal of 40 percentile rank.

Sixth graders also did well in the complete battery test last year, garnering an actual 47 percentile rank against the PSS target of 45. In SY 2007-2008, sixth graders surpassed the system's goal of 40 by six points.

Eleventh graders finished the school year with a 46 percentile rank. In SY 2007-2008, eleventh graders placed at 44th percentile rank versus the PSS goal of 40.

Ninth graders were short by just one point at 44 but Quitugua expressed satisfaction with their performance and is confident of better results this school year. This grade level surpassed the 2007-2008 goal of 40 percentile rank.

Saipan Tribune learned that grades three and eighth scored at 43 percentile rank, two points short of the PSS target. In SY 2007-2008, third graders surpassed the PSS target of 40 percentile by two points. At that time, eighth graders were short by three points of the system's goal.

Quitugua reported that PSS intends to conduct the SAT-10 evaluation in all grade levels in the future.

ACHIEVEMENTS PER SCHOOL

The following are the achievements in the complete battery test posted by individual public schools in the Commonwealth last school year 2008-2009.

School	Grade 3	Grade 5	Grade 6		Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 11
GTC	61%	51%	62%	Hopwood	44%		
KOES	55%	49%	48%	Chacha	40%		
TES	50%	41%	51%	Tinian Jr.	44%		
SVES	48%	50%	52%	Rota Jr.	40%		
DES	43%	48%	47%	SSHS		44%	46%
SAES	42%	43%	36%	RHS		42%	42%
WSR	41%	45%	42%	MHS		46%	48%
Sinapalo	41%	44%		THS		51%	46%
TAN	38%	45%	40%	KHS		39%	42%
GES	38%	46%	46%				
Oleai	37%	48%	49%				
KagES	37%	36%					
Chacha		45%					
Rota Jr.		42%					

Source: Public School System

Ex-garment worker sues Labor for denial of transfer

A former garment worker has sued the Department of Labor after she was denied transfer to a new employer who had wanted to hire her to take care of an elderly parent.

Naphaporn Jaroenkwan said that Labor hearing officer Deanne Siemer denied her transfer and then acting Labor Secretary Jacinta Kaipat also denied her appeal.

Jaroenkwan, a Thai citizen, petitioned the Superior Court to review the orders issued by Siemer and Kaipat.

The petitioner, through the O'Connor law firm, asked the court to reverse and set aside the Labor officials' decisions.

She asked the court to allow her to transfer to a new employer and order Labor to pay her court costs and attorney's fees.

Jaroenkwan worked with the UIC garment factory until it shut down in September 2008. Her transfer period was extended several times by Labor Hearing Office beyond the original 30 days.

On Jan. 26, 2009, she asked for a further extension. Fourteen days later, on Feb. 9, 2009, Siemer denied the request, saying "there is nothing in petitioner's request or in the record to support the proposition that petitioner can become productively employed in the CNMI within the foreseeable future."

According to the O'Connor law firm, during the pendency of the appeal, Jaroenkwan found a job with a former school counselor who had wanted to hire her as a caretaker of an elderly parent. Jaroenkwan advised Labor Secretary Gil San Nicolas of this in a letter of June 25, 2009.

On July 28, 2009, then acting Labor Secretary Kaipat denied the appeal.

Kaipat said the appellant has been unemployed since September 2008 and remained unemployed at the time the hearing officer acted in February 2009. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 09 - 033

PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF NEW PACKAGE TYPE AIR CONDITIONING UNITS AT KAGMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive seated bids for the purchase and installation of new package type air conditioning units for Kagman Elementary School Cafeteria.

The Scope of Work and specifications are available at the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd floor of Retirement Fund Building Capitol Hill Saipan.

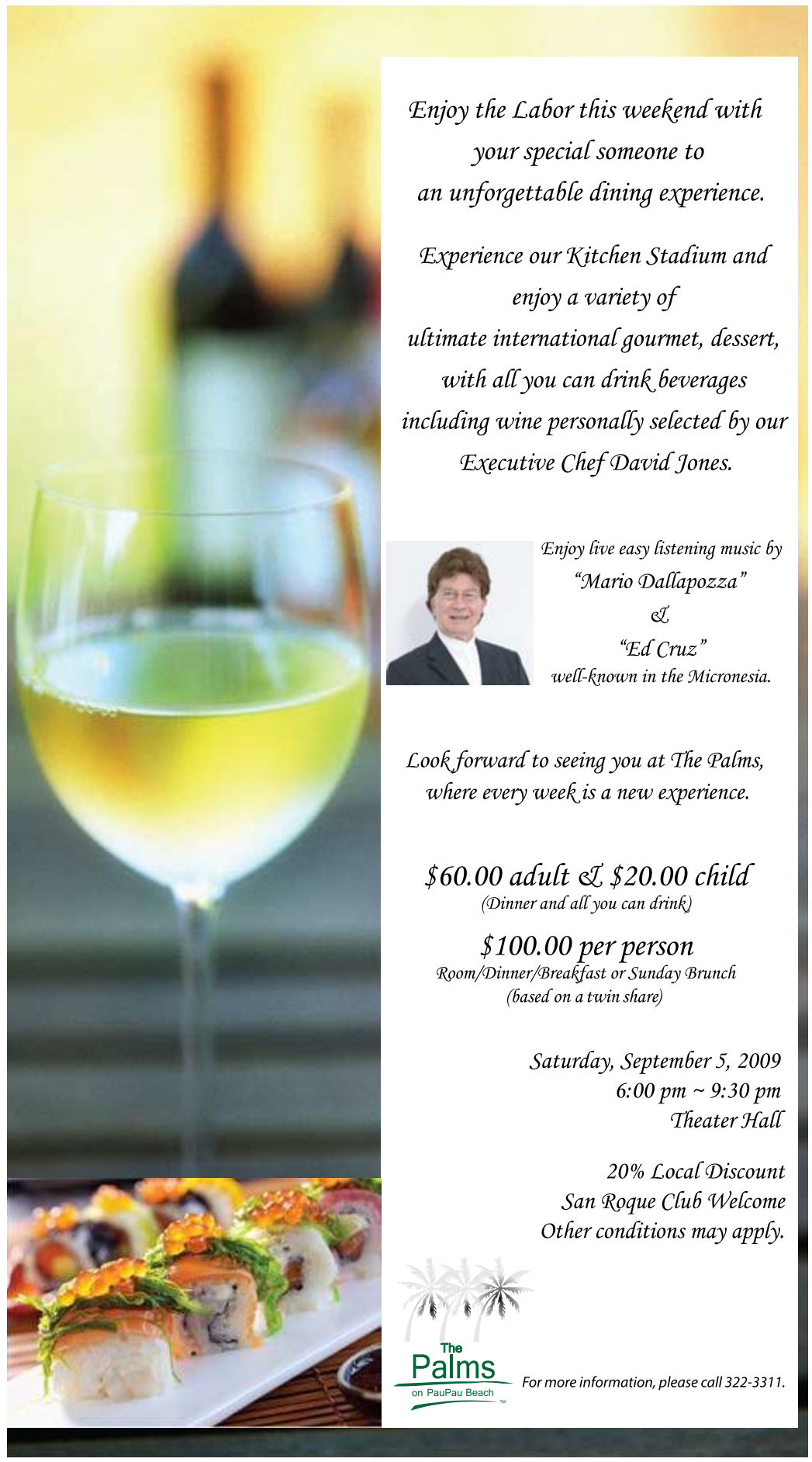
A Mandatory On Site Pre-Bid Meeting is scheduled for 9:00 AM September 17, 2009. Bids submitted by bidders who did not attend this meeting will be rejected,

Question should be in writing and addressed to David F. Loan, CIP Coordinator via fax to 664-3715, or by c-mail to loand@pss.cnmi.mp not later than September 21, 2009.

Bids shall be placed in a seated enveloped marked "PSS 09 -033" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office no later than September 25, 2009 at 10:00 AM. Any bid received after this date and time will not be accepted.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer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VEHICLE

From Page 1

Of the three dealers, Triple J Motors saw the most dramatic increase in sales—from only 10 in August last year to 27 this year, a 170-percent increase.

This was followed by Joeten Motors with a 40-percent increase, from 10 to 14.

Microl Corp. posted a 17 percent drop in sales, but still was able to sell 19 new units in August from 23 last year during the same period.

This is only the second time so far this year that CADA's monthly vehicle sales have gone up; the first one was in June.

Year-to-date sales, however, posted a 36-percent drop. CADA sold only 292 new vehicles between January and August, compared to 453 last year.

CADA also sold 272 used or secondhand vehicles during the first eight months of the year.

Matthew Deets, CADA president, said that, while the 40 percent sales increase in August is positive news, "it is not a trend" and he does not expect sales to be significantly higher in September.

Deets, who is also general manager of Joeten Motors, said the "Cash for Clunkers" program has not made much dent on sales but the volume of customer traffic in August was "staggering" as far as Joeten Motors is concerned.

"We got a lot of rollover from the Cash for Clunkers program. That's why Joeten Motors' sales for the first week of September alone is extremely good," he said.

The Cash for Clunkers" program or the Car Allowance Rebate System was a short-lived national program that allowed motorists to receive $3,500 to $4,500 in refund vouchers by turning in their old, gas-guzzling vehicles and buying newer, more fuel efficient ones.

President Obama signed a bill extending the program by allocating $2 billion more when the original $1 billion earmarked for the program ran out, but the total funds had been wiped out even before CNMI motorists could fully benefit from the national program.

Randy Steele, general manager of Triple J Motors, said yesterday that 15 of the 27 new units their company sold in August were Mitsubishi Outlanders, which they were able to sell in the first half of the month.

"We had strong sales in other vehicle classes as well, though we did not submit any applications to the federal government under the 'clunkers' program. We hope that August sales are a sign that consumer confidence is on the rise and that we will see continued, steady improvement throughout the rest of the year," he told Saipan Tribune in an e-mail.

SUVs as top seller

In August, SUVs barely toppled cars as the top vehicle of choice. CADA sold 24 new SUVs, 23 new cars, 10 new trucks, and three new vans.

Boosting the overall SUV sales was Triple J Motors' selling of 15 new Mitsubishi Outlanders, also making it the top seller among all makes and models.

Falling in second place was Microl Corp.'s Toyota Corolla with 10 new units sold in August, and Joeten Motors' four new Honda Civic.

Also sold in August were three units each of Mazda3, Toyota Yaris, Mazda Pickup, and Toyota Tacoma.

CADA also sold two units each of Ford Ranger, Nissan Frontier, Mazda 5, Nissan Rogue, and Toyota RAV4.

The dealers also sold in August one unit each of Honda Accord, Mazda RX8, Nissan Altima, Nissan Quest, Honda CR-V, Hyundai Vera Cruz, Mazda CX7, Suzuki G. Vitara, and Toyota Highlander.

NMC

From Page 1

yesterday, a large increase over the Fall 2008's 790 students.

Of this year's enrollment figure, 253 students, or 26 percent, are first-time and full-time students seeking various degrees.

The number of foreign students also increased to 185, a nearly 50-percent increase over last Fall, which had 125 enrollees.

NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez said yesterday the increase in enrollment can be credited to the reaffirmation of NMC's accreditation.

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges removed NMC from its show-cause status in June this year, reaffirming its accreditation.

The good turnout was also attributed to the college's aggressive recruitment activities and its College Access Challenge Project, which aimed to increase the number of students who are Native Pacific Islanders and those from low-income families in the Commonwealth.

"I also believe that the prevailing economic climate is providing further incentive for people to enroll in higher education to expand their career and future prospects," said Fernandez, adding that the college is committed to helping build a strong, skilled, educated work force that is critical to the CNMI's economic growth.

To accommodate the increase in enrollment, the college opened several new classes and hired several adjunct faculty members to teach in the Fall. Before being hired, adjunct faculty members undergo a certification process to ensure that they are qualified to teach in a higher education setting. Several full-time instructors were also recently hired to teach this Fall semester.

"Even with the increase in enrollment, we are confidently able to meet the needs of these additional students without sacrificing educational quality," said Fernandez.

According to Janice Tenorio, Dean of Student Services, the number of enrollees is still expected to increase because some classes are scheduled to start later in the semester.

'Over 800 resident students'

Saipan Tribune learned that of the nearly one thousand enrollees, 804 are resident students while 185 are nonresidents. They are broken down as follows: AA Business, 68; AA Liberal Arts, 276; Accounting Emphasis, 33; Business Management Emphasis, 34; Computer Applications, 33; AAS Criminal Justice, 88; AAS Hospitality Management, 13; AS Natural Resource Management, 6; AS Nursing, 126; BS Elementary Education, 206; and non-degree students, 111.

In Fall 2008, NMC had only 665 resident students and 125 nonresident students.

FITIAL

From Page 1

of Fiscal Year 2009.

The directive took effect on Tuesday, Sept. 1.

However, the Fitial administration has yet to provide the amount of expected budgetary shortfall for FY 2009, which ends on Sept. 30, as well as any changes in the projected budgetary resources for FY 2010.

Among other things, the Marianas Public Lands Trust has not made a decision whether to remit $4.1 million to the general fund, with only days left before the end of the fiscal year. The Fitial administration said the $4.1 million was listed as "recovered interest resource" in the FY 2009 budget and that MPLT was willing to give the money during the preparation for the budget.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan), when asked for comment, said yesterday he looks forward to receiving the amount of projected shortfall from the Executive Branch.

"I will work collaboratively with the administration to soften the impact of a potential shortfall as outlined in the governor's memo. I hope that members of the Legislature and the Legislative Bureau read this memo too and help in conserving resources, given the expected deficit," Yumul said.

He also said the draft FY 2010 budget bill won't be released this week because of this.

In an Aug. 31 memorandum, Fitial said acting Finance Secretary Robert Schrack and special assistant for management and budget Esther Fleming have advised him of a potential budgetary shortfall for the fiscal year.

To "minimize the adverse effect of the potential cost overrun," Fitial said department and activity heads should "conserve whatever remaining obligation authority you may have in your account[s] for the remainder of the fiscal year."

"Accordingly, effective September 1, 2009, all new obligations and expenditures against locally appropriated funds for the remainder of this fiscal year are hereby restricted. Obligations for bona fide emergencies affecting critical services may be exempted upon my prior approval or that of the lieutenant governor," Fitial said in his one-page memo.

The directive does not apply to federally funded programs and other activities funded outside of the general fund.

The government is budgeted at $156.76 million this fiscal year.

Copies of the governor's memo were also distributed to key legislative and judicial officers, including Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos, House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan), Senate Pres. Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan), and Chief Justice Miguel Demapan.

Fitial left for California yesterday to attend Labor Day festivities of CNMI residents living in different U.S. states, and Inos is the acting governor.

'Luckier'

Press secretary Charles Reyes said the government would have been in a better financial position if only the Legislature implemented austerity measures.

"They don't want to do it; it's an election year. That's a lost opportunity," said Reyes.

Nevertheless, he said the CNMI is luckier than other U.S. states like California and Hawaii, which have no other choice but to lay off large number of government employees because of the financial crunch.

Hawaii Gov. Linda Lingle, for example, sent written layoff notices to 1,100 workers who had previously been told they could lose their jobs because of the state's budget deficit. The workers would lose their jobs on Nov. 13.

"We don't have mass layoffs. It's a testament to the governor's leadership even in times of hardship," Reyes said.

KILILI

From Page 1

"And one thing we do know is that the department asked for no money in Fiscal Year 2010 to do the job here. And they haven't asked Congress for any reprogramming. How are they planning to pay for the takeover?" he said.

The Fitial administration and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce separately welcomed yesterday Sablan's support to their long-standing request for a further delay in the federal takeover of local immigration.

Sablan said one of the recent congressional visitors said the CNMI economy is headed for a train wreck. "I have come to agree," he said.

'Preparing for the worst'

Attorney General Ed Buckingham has taken the lead in establishing a special protocol working group composed of public and private sector leaders to address possible contingencies for Nov. 28.

Press secretary Charles Reyes said the group held its first meeting yesterday and will be meeting weekly to prepare for worst-case scenarios involving federalization.

Among the task force members are private attorneys Maya Kara and Steve Woodruff and Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Efrain F. Camacho, Reyes said.

Sablan said a one-year delay in the implementation of P.L. 110-229 will ensure that DHS "does not do us 'quick and dirty,' but rather follows the law and gives our people and our economy the well-thought-out and smooth transition we deserve."

"I know that I will be criticized for this. But the only reason I will seek a delay is because DHS is not ready. And the damage that DHS can do to families here and to businesses by its lack of preparation is not acceptable," he said.

Upon hearing this, the Chamber members and guests applauded.

But Sablan continued, "I cannot promise success in getting this delay."

Sablan, who hosted several congressional visits to Saipan since July and held four town hall meetings, urged businesses to prepare because federalization "is going to happen; we just want it to happen right."

The original implementation date was June 1, 2009, but this was pushed back to Nov. 28, 2009, or by 180 days, the maximum allowed by law, because DHS was not ready to implement the law then.

A further delay in federalization would require a separate legislation to amend P.L. 110-229.

'Wrong'

Last week, U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources staffer Allen Stayman said delaying the Nov. 28 federal takeover of local immigration is "very unlikely" given the three-month window that remains to pass a law for its extension.

Stayman, a former director of the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, said the best thing that may be done to "is to just get on with it," adding that delaying federalization is not going to reduce the uncertainty the CNMI faces.

Jim Arenovski, president of the Chamber, said Stayman's comment of "get on with it" is simply wrong and misinformed.

In a brief interview after the meeting, Arenovski said a further delay in the federalization law's implementation "will help get it done right."

U.S. House Natural Resources Committee chair Rep. Nick Rahall II (D-WV), during his visit to Saipan in August, made it clear that his committee will take its lead from Sablan, the CNMI's first non-voting delegate, on issues such as federalization.

'Contingency plan'

Press secretary Reyes, when asked for comment, said the Fitial administration welcomes Sablan's support of a one-year delay of federalization.

"We believe it is a very responsible position to take under the circumstances. This is a position long shared by the administration, the business community, members of the Legislature, some nonresident workers, and many other people throughout our local communities. We knew DHS was not ready and we worried DHS would very likely not be ready in time, even with the initial extension," the press secretary said.

He said a legislative extension of one year is "badly needed to make sure DHS is ready and adverse impacts are limited."

DHS has yet to issue regulations for the investor and CNMI-only transitional worker program. It has so far issued interim regulations on the Guam-CNMI visa waiver program, which excludes Chinese and Russian tourists.

Sablan said he will continue to work on the visa waiver issue separately.

Reyes said since the federal government has not come up with a comprehensive way of dealing with all the issues, the CNMI has to prepare.

"We must determine what we will do and how we will handle the many unprecedented transition issues and problems arising from federalization's implementation if DHS and the CNMI are not afforded more time," said Reyes.

Sablan also told Chamber members that DHS has failed to respond to follow-up questions submitted by the U.S. House Committee in Natural Resources after the May hearing in Washington, D.C. on the implementation of P.L. 110-229.

Besides federalization of immigration, Sablan also shared with the Chamber his work on two other issues: education, and bringing federal funds home.

He enumerated the increased and new federal funds for education since he came into office, as well as American Recovery and Reinvestment Act money that's coming the CNMI's way.

74 children remain on Head Start's wait list

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A total of 74 children are on the wait list of the Public School System's Head Start program for School Year 2009-2010, according to program director Keiko Yamagata during last week's Board of Education meeting.

Classes at public schools will begin on Sept. 8, including sessions for the Head Start program.

Yamataga said some children are on the wait list because they are not from the "low-income" bracket, which is among the basic requirements to be accepted in the program.

The CNMI Head Start is a federally funded program under the Department of Health and Human Services, which provides developmental services for low-income children ages 3 to 5 and social services for their families. In the CNMI, the program is mandated to serve 462 children every year.

There are 10 Head Start centers on Saipan, Tinian and Rota where children and their families receive services in education, health, parent involvement, and social services.

Of the 462 kids now enrolled in the program, 361 are new enrollees while 101 are returning students, Yamagata said.

Less than 10 percent of the Head Start population this school year is considered special education children. Nine percent of the 462 kids are considered "high-income," while 354 kids are eligible for Medicaid.

Saipan Tribune learned that it is only when a student withdraws from the program that students on the wait list are accepted, based on who is the next most eligible on line to replace the departing child.

Since two years ago, the funded enrolment figures for Head Start have dropped—from 579 to 462—mainly due to funding limitations.

Every year, the program gets $1.7 million in federal funds. However, its local matching fund has decreased from almost $700,000 to just $350,000.

Majority of Head Start providers are considered non-highly qualified but Yamagata said that many are in the process of obtaining their degrees. It was found that the program is losing certified and HQT personnel to mostly elementary schools.

The board recently approved a one-time pay differential for Head Start teachers, teacher aides and support staff who are current employees of the program.

It provided a $1,000 bonus to those who have been in the service for two or more years and $500 to those serving less than two years.

Last week, the Education Board approved the submission of a supplemental grant application of $14,328 for the travel of three Head Start program staffers who will attend the Outer Pacific Head Start Training and meeting in San Francisco.

These participants are expected to share what they will learn with the other Head Start staff, parents, policy council, and partners when they return.

40 join emergency response training

About 40 individuals participated yesterday in the CNMI Office of Homeland Security's two-day Community Emergency Response Team basic course held at the Saipan World Resort's Lilac Room.

Hotel association representatives, civilians, a priest, firefighters, police officers, government employees, and other members of law enforcement agencies joined in the CERT basic course.

The Guam Homeland Security Office sent two trainers—CERT Neighborhood Watch Program coordinator Sgt. James Buccat and Guam Fire Corps program coordinator/firefighter Louis J. Ramsey—to conduct the workshop.

The two discussed with participants disaster preparedness, fire safety, disaster medical operations, light search and rescue, team organization, disaster psychology, and terrorism.

Using the model created by the Los Angeles City Fire Department, the Federal Emergency Management Agency began promoting nationwide the use of CERT concept in 1994. Since then, CERTs have been established in hundreds of communities in the U.S.

CERT training promotes a partnering effort between emergency services and the people that they serve. According to the Emergency Management Institute, CERT's goal is for emergency personnel to train members of neighborhoods, community organizations, or workplaces in basic response skills.

CNMI Citizen Corps Program coordinator Joey C. DelaCruz said the program provides training to regular citizens to be better prepared to help themselves, the community, neighbors, and co-workers in the event of man-made or natural disasters.

"We have to remember that in 95 percent of all accidents that occur, we the citizens are the ones that are there...from there that's when we call the first responders to come. So [CERT] teaches us how to react and sustain the victims before the first responders actually come," DelaCruz said.

In the event of a big disaster, he said that first responders are so limited that they have to attend to more critical person at the site.

"With this training, [participants] will able to provide that technical support to the first responders, to provide for the least critical victims," DelaCruz said.

He said the training is also for potential instructors. On Friday, some of the participants will be trained to become instructors.

DelaCruz and Buccat underscored the importance of CERT training for a small island like Saipan where typhoons are a common occurrence. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Statewide Independent Living Council
FY 09' 3rd General Membership Meeting
PO Box 501521 Saipan, MP 96950, TEL.: (670)322-6537 FAX: (670)322-6536
TTY (670) 322-6449 EMAIL:voc.rehab@saipan.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 09 3rd General Membership Meeting on Thursday, September 3, 2009 at the Giovanni's Private Room Hyatt Regency Saipan at 10:00am-2:00pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order/Preliminaries
- Review and Adoption of Agenda
- Review and Adoption of 03/12/09 Minutes

II. Reports
- OVR Director's Report
- CLI Director's Report
- SILC Chairperson Report
- 24th Annual International Technology and Persons with Disabilities Conference Presentation by Lydia Igitol

III. Old Business
- Follow up on SPIL Amendments/ Joint State Plan Forums for Saipan, Tinian, & Rota
- SILC Empowerment & Advocacy Activities
- Authorization for Disclosure

IV. New Business
- Status of ARRA funds CIL

V. Announcements
- Joint SILC/SRC Meeting

VI. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537(voice) or 322-6449(TTY). Please contact Magin Iginoef (Council Liaison) two days in advanced for necessary arrangements.

Kaye Christian
SILC Chairperson

Publication of this notice was paid for with federal funds made possible by the United States Department of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS)

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'Please don't bring home hospital blankets, gowns'

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After the loss of most of the bed sheets it donated to the Commonwealth Health Center, the CHC Volunteers Association is appealing to patients to leave these items when checking out of the hospital because these are government property.

The appeal comes after the group turned over yesterday a large volume of donated hospital items to CHC, including 384 gowns, 270 blankets, 3,000 baby blankets, seven trash bins, and a printer.

The baby blankets came from the Rotary Club of Saipan while the rest were purchased by the volunteers' group.

The printer would be used to put markings on the hospital items, warning patients not to take the items and to leave them at the hospital.

"They [patients] should leave them [items] because other patients would use them," said volunteer Rita Tenorio,

Tenorio recalled that two years ago, the group donated some 1,000 blankets. Most are now unaccounted for because patients took them home.

Tenorio, along with association members Irene Gabbie, Rieko Guerrero and Gab Du Chong, turned over the donated items to Department of Public Health officials led by acting Secretary Pete Untalan.

Untalan said DPH recognizes the tremendous support of the Volunteers Association to the government hospital.

"We thank them for their continued commitment of providing support to the patients' needs. Without them, we will not be able to provide enough supplies," Untalan said.

He said the community should be aware of this commitment by taking care of the donated items.

"This is the only way to recognize and respect their efforts," he said.

The hospital has a total of 72 rooms, excluding the 10 rooms at the pediatric ward and six rooms at the psychiatric ward.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Members of the Commonwealth Health Center Volunteers Association and Public Health officials pose with the donated hospital supplies that included blankets, gowns, trash cans, and a printer.

DPH adopts new fees

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Health has just adopted 14 new hospital service fees at the Commonwealth Health Center, effective Sept. 9.

The new fees for physician/professional services include $1,330 for crossover vein graft, $1,358 for rechanneling of artery (code 35301), $1,075 for rechanneling of artery (code 35371), $1,487 for fusion of stomach and bowel, $2,206 for removal of rectum with reservoir, $445 for the permanent insertion of abdomen drain, $184 for renal biopsy, $858 for Vbac delivery only, and $89 for an evaluation of hemodialysis.

The technical/facility fee for the first five service items is $5.

The new rate schedule includes a facility fee of $59 for permanent insertion of abdomen drain, $29 for renal biopsy and $441.40 for Vbac delivery. There is no adjustment for hemodialysis.

Other items but with no specified rates were red blood cells, quad red blood cells, fresh frozen plasma (single donor and frozen within eight hours of collection), cryoprecipitate and pheresis platelets.

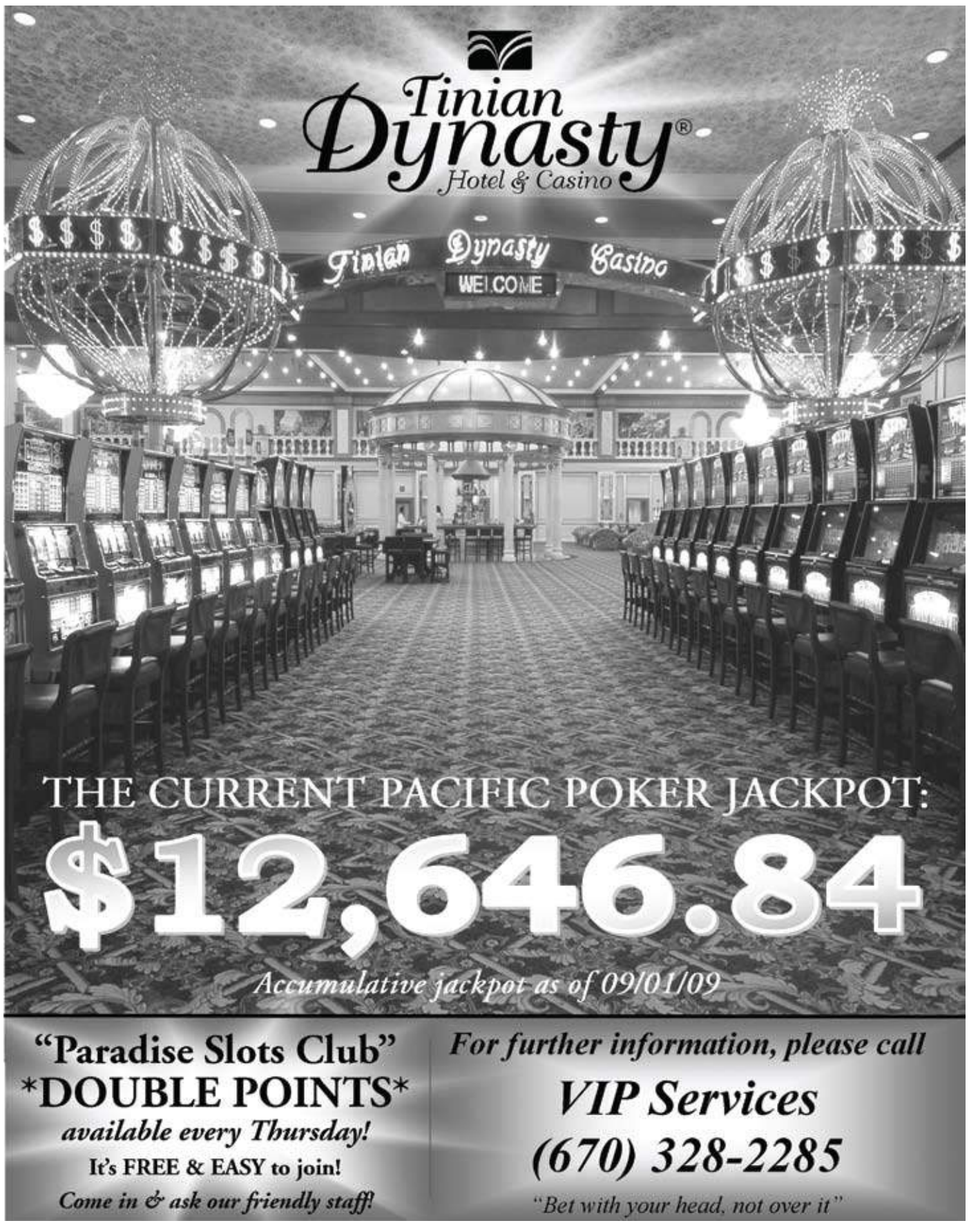
A physician/professional fee is a fee for the services of a medical professional while a facility fee is a fee for the services of the hospital/outpatient facility.

Both professional and facility fees are charged when the medical professional is an employee of CHC.

If the medical professional is working for a private clinic, the patient will receive a bill from CHC for the facility fee only and will receive a separate bill from the private clinic for the professional component.

The regulation states that some procedures may only have either the professional component or the facility component.

The new fees were published in the Aug. 27 issue of the Commonwealth Register, signed by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on Aug. 25 and approved by Attorney General Edward Buckingham on Aug. 27.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
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INVITATION FOR BID
NMHC IFB09-003

PURCHASE OF PACIFIC AND ADULT MATERIALS FOR THE TINIAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors through its Chairwoman of the Board is soliciting competitive sealed bids from interested vendors for the purchase of Pacific and Adult Materials for the Tinian Public Library.

Copies of the Scope of Work may be obtained at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular business hours, Monday thru Friday except CNMI Holidays.

Sealed bids must be marked **"NMHC IFB09-003"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, not later than **10:00 a.m., local time, September 4, 2009**.

Bids received after the date and time will not be accepted. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, Friday, September 4, 2009, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **September 4, 2009**, and must be received at Procurement and Supply no later than **September 17, 2009**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at **8:00 a.m.**, local time, **September 18, 2009**. However, if no notice of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m.**, local time on **September 4, 2009**.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this procurement. This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provided to the Commonwealth. This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible."

NMHC further notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contracts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority and women-owned business enterprises (MBE/WBE) are afforded equal opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, gender, age, disability or national origin.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals will become the property of the Government.

/s/
Merced (Marcie) M. Tomokane
Chairwoman of the Board

/s/
Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

This ad is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

High court: Pangelinan entitled to just over $30K

The CNMI Supreme Court ruled yesterday that former lawmaker Thomas B. Pangelinan is only owed a little over $30,000 by the NMI Retirement Fund and not the full retirement benefits he claims is due him and were withheld when he returned to government service.

In its decision issued yesterday, the high court ruled that while the 60-day per year work restriction prohibited Pangelinan from receiving retirement benefits for the entire time he returned to government service, he actually was eligible to receive benefits for 60 days each of those years.

Pangelinan, worked for PSS for 28 years. He retired from his position as a school principal in 1995, and began receiving his government pension from the Fund. Pangelinan received bi-weekly checks until 1999, when he was elected to the Legislature. Upon returning to government service, the Fund ceased paying his pension. In all, Pangelinan worked another four years—two years in the Legislature, and two years as the Secretary of the Department of Land and Natural Resources without receiving any retirement benefits. After retiring for the second time in 2004, Pangelinan sued the Fund in an attempt to recoup the money it withheld during the period when he had returned to work for the government.

As a legislator, Pangelinan received a full salary, and the Fund reasoned that, since he was no longer retired, he was no longer entitled to retirement benefits. The Fund defended its actions by citing Article III, Section 20(b) of the Commonwealth Constitution. This provision states that an employee who has worked at least 20 years "shall be eligible to retire," and that such retirees "shall be credited an additional five years [service]." This five-year credit acts to increase the amount of each benefit check, and was initially included in the Constitution to entice government employees to retire early. However, the provision also includes certain restrictions for those who receive the credit. It states those who "elect" to retire under the provision may not work for more than 60 days in any year without forfeiting retirement benefits for the remainder of that year. The Fund argued that, since Pangelinan initially received the five-year credit, and had been accepting the elevated annuity payments for four years, he forfeited benefits he would have received as a retiree by returning to work full-time as a government employee and receiving a full salary.

Pangelinan

Pangelinan claimed that he never "elected" to retire with the additional five-year credit, and therefore the 60-day work restriction should not apply to him. He asserted that the Fund unilaterally applied the credit, and since he had no choice in the matter, he should be entitled to a full salary and full retirement benefits after returning to government service. The Supreme Court found that the word "elect" in the Constitution implied that retirees did indeed have a choice in whether to receive the credit and corresponding work restriction. However, the Supreme Court also held that by accepting the elevated benefit payments for about four years (the amount of time between his first retirement in 1995 and his return to work in 1999), Pangelinan ratified the terms of his retirement agreement with the Fund. In making this decision, the Supreme Court incorporated principles of contract law, as the Constitution states that a retiree's legal relationship with the Fund is a contractual one. The contract guidelines state that a party must object to a term he or she seeks to avoid within a reasonable time of the formation of the contract. Since Pangelinan never objected, he was bound by the five-year credit and 60-day work restriction.

Pangelinan did not lose the case completely. The Supreme Court also found that, while the 60-day per year work restriction prohibited him from receiving retirement benefits for the entire time he returned to government service, he actually was eligible to receive benefits for 60 days each of those years. In all, Pangelinan was entitled to just over $30,000 in wrongly-withheld benefits.

Pangelinan also sought interest on those monetary damages, but the Supreme Court held that the Fund did not have to pay these under the doctrine of sovereign immunity. ***(PR)***

Probable cause found to charge ex-convict in alleged knife attack

The Superior Court has found probable cause to file charges against an ex-convict who was reportedly stopped by Northern Islands Mayor Valentine Taisakan from attacking a man with a knife.

Associate Judge David Wiseman on Monday ruled that, based on the testimony of the government witness and arguments by counsel, he finds probable cause to believe that Jeffrey I. Celis may have committed the crime of assault with a dangerous weapon.

Wiseman ordered the 39-year-old Celis to answer the charge.

Wiseman, however, found no probable cause to charge Celis with reckless driving and dismissed the charge.

The judge set the arraignment for Sept. 8 at 9am.

A police detective stated in his report that Celis had tried to stab Carlos Marcelino Jr. with a Rambo-type 12-inch knife in the Koblerville Housing area on Aug. 15, 2009. The victim was able to evade the attack and ran in the direction of Taisakan's house. Marcelino allegedly chased after him.

Taisakan, who saw the incident, shouted at Celis to stop because his children were playing in the area. The mayor then called the police.

Celis, together with his companion, fled aboard their car. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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INVITATION FOR BID
NMHC IFB09-004

OFFICE SPACE FOR NMHC IN ROTA

OPENING DATE OF BID: **Thursday, September 10, 2009**
Time: **10:00 a.m.**
PLACE: **Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan**

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors through its Chairwoman of the Board, are soliciting competitive sealed bids from interested owners of commercial buildings in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up the Scope of Work at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, or at the Field Office in Songsong Village, Rota, during regular business hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday through Friday except CNMI holidays. Inquiries may be directed to Edith C. Fejeran, Office Manager, at telephone nos. 670.234-6866/7689 during regular business hours or Mark Manglona, Rota Field Office Representative, at 670.532-9410.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal in the best interest of the NMHC and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ **Merced (Marcie) M. Tomokane** **Chairwoman of the Board**

/s/ **Herman S. Sablan** **Director, Procurement & Supply**

This ad is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COMMONWEALTH ELECTION COMMISSION

September 1, 2009

To all Candidates in the 2009 General Election:

The Commonwealth Election Commission has decided that in accordance with the intent of Public Law 15-7, that this year's ballot will be organized by race or offices wherein the names of candidates for a particular office or offices shall be placed together identified as candidates for a particular office and the name of the candidate's political party or independent candidacy shall be placed immediately under the candidate's name on the ballot.

Accordingly, Executive Director will be conducting the drawings for individual candidate's location on the ballot for a particular race or office will be held on Friday, September 4, 2009 at the time times listed below at the Commonwealth Election Commission's office. *See NMIAC* Section 30-10-402(b). Each candidate has the option of drawing their own number the corresponds to their placement on the ballot under the respective office they are campaigning for, or having a representative do this for them, i.e. a representative of their political party. *See NMIAC* Section 30-10-402(b). Candidates who fail to participate in the drawing shall be drawn by the staff of the Commonwealth Election Commission.

9:00 a.m. Governor, Mayor and Senate
10:00 a.m. House of Representatives
11:00 a.m. Board of Education, Municipal Coucil

Thank you for your time and if you have any questions please contact the Commonwealth Election Commission at 664-8683.

/s/ **FRANCES M. SABLAN**
Chairwoman

Tudela: DPS responsible for dead animals

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Under the law, the Department of Public Safety is responsible for collecting dead animals on the islands, said Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela.

"We do what we can to help, but that is the law," he said, responding to criticisms that his office is slow to respond to complaints of road kill.

At the same time, he said many people do not understand that the mayor's office cannot just pick up stray dogs without a safe place to put them in. Tudela said the humane thing to do when rounding up strays is to put them in a suitable site.

The mayor's office was planning to set up a temporary secure holding area in Lower Base until funds can be appropriated for a permanent site in Kagman. This has been temporarily stalled, however, by the lack of an adequate septic tank and other necessities at Lower Base.

"This issue of controlling stray dogs and the need for a suitable shelter must be resolved," said Tudela.

He said it is incumbent for the Saipan Legislative Delegation to provide funds to build the shelter in order to control stray dogs.

He said that when the new facility is completed, they would implement a dog-neutering program to help control the dog population on the island.

He also wants dog owners to be responsible in keeping their dogs as safe as possible.

"If an animal is not restrained and becomes a public nuisance, something must be done about it, but the final burden of responsibility rests with the owner," said Tudela.

Tudela said he had also asked the Saipan delegation to amend the current dog control law to include stray cats, which are becoming a public nuisance on the island.

Tudela said he is urging the Legislature to identify the necessary funds to build the animal shelter to make this important project happen without further delay.

The continued lack of funding for the $150,000 facility has become the over-riding problem.

"There has been a lot of finger-pointing and election season talk demanding action. I have received a lot of criticism, yet I understand their frustration. But we have had a very difficult time because we were forced to relocate the site several times and funding still needs to be provided," Tudela said.

'US military has had no specific request yet for more NMI lands'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

While U.S. military generals, admirals, and other federal officials have visited the CNMI recently, no one has made specific request to use more lands in the commonwealth for military purposes in light of the buildup in Guam, Rep. Stanley Torres said Tuesday

Torres, one of the longest serving members of the CNMI House of Representatives, raised this issue when he issued his five-point platform that included the creation of a Second Political Status Commission to determine whether residents still want to continue a "commonwealth" relationship with the United States.

"A lot has changed in 35 years. Let's take a second look. This process will take some time," he said.

He, however, said that something can be done in the short term, which is negotiating the terms of use for lands that the U.S. indicates it wants to have control of.

"Over the last couple of years, we have been visited repeatedly by U.S. generals and U.S. admirals and other Washington delegations that have come here to the CNMI to meet with us. So far, there have been no specific offers or specific requests. Obviously, they are interested in our lands from a military standpoint. They have shown that keen interest via their frequent visits. They have intimated that the CNMI is increasingly important to the Homeland Defense of the United States," he said.

Torres, who is seeking re-election as an independent candidate, said the CNMI needs to know the U.S.' real goal, and should negotiate a reasonable deal to make that U.S.-CNMI mutual defense partnership really work.

"They want Pagan? Tinian? Sarigan? Fine, please state your intended goal and let's talk about what's in it for the citizens of the CNMI. Hopefully, we can do better than the $1 per acre they paid to have control of two-thirds of Tinian, all of FDM and the Port of Saipan 35 years ago," he said.

Torres pre-filed legislation seeking to review U.S.-CNMI relations.

Torres said Tuesday he would support any "improved" relationship between the CNMI and the U.S.

"It's not necessarily statehood, but anything better than the current relationship we have if the people want it," he said.

Torres' five-point election platform covers U.S.-CNMI relations, sustainable development, affordable fuel, effective zoning, and safe communities.

Torres, who is turning 68 on Sept. 30, is seeking re-election to represent Precinct 3, which covers San Jose, Oleai, Chalan Kiya, Chalan Laulau, Gualo Rai, Garapan, Navy Hill, Puerto Rico, and Capital Hill.

He is running against 13 others vying for six House seats for Precinct 3. The 14 total candidates include himself and two other Independents, six Republicans, and five Covenant Party members.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-DOC-151

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2009 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"TO RETROFIT EXISTING T-12 LIGHTING AND MAGNETIC BALLASTS WITH ENERGY STAR RATED T-8 FLOURESCENT LIGHTING AND NEW APPROPRIATE MATCHING ELECTRONIC BALLAST A PROJECT UNDER THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 (ARRA)"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. AADAM LORTZ, ARRA PROJECT MANAGER VIA E-MAIL TO cnmiarra@gmail.com OR FAX TO +1 (670) 664-3067 NO LATER THAN CLOSE OF BUSINESS, SEPTEMBER 21, 2009.

THIS IS FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ MICHAEL ADA
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

Tinian Harbor Improvements
CPA-TS-001-09

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals to repair certain features to the dock at the Tinian Harbor. A detailed scope of work will be available at the office of the Executive Office on Thursday, September 3, 2009.

The proposals shall include the following:
- Letter of Interest;
- Project timeframe;
- Available resources to accomplish project;
- Cost Proposal (in itemized scope of work format);
- Valid CNMI Business License; and
- Proof of insurance.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: ***"Proposal for Improvements at the Tinian Harbor, CPA-TS-001-09"***. The proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, September 25, 2009**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

Questions will be accepted until September 21, 2009 and are to be submitted in writing to the office of the Executive Director or emailed to cpa.admin@pticom.com.

A pre-proposal conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 15, 2009 at the office of the Tinian Ports Manager at the Tinian International Airport. Attendance at this pre-proposal conference is mandatory and only contractors present at the pre-proposal meeting will be allowed to submit proposals.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 3.6. CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MR. EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: September 2, 2009

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

Replacement of Lighting Fixtures
Saipan Commercial Port
Project No. CPA-SS-003-09a

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for the complete replacement of 117 light fixtures on thirteen (13) light poles, located along the ocean front of the dock at Saipan Seaport.

A detailed scope of work is available at the office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. The proposals shall include the following:

- Letter of Interest;
- Project timeframe;
- Available resources to accomplish project;
- Cost Proposal (in itemized scope of work format);
- Valid CNMI Business License; and
- Proof of insurance.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: ***"Proposal for the Replacement of Lighting Fixtures at the Saipan Commercial Port, Project Number CPA-SS-003-09a"***. The proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, September 18, 2009**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, at the Saipan International Airport.

A pre-proposal conference will be held at *3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 8, 2009* at the Port of Saipan Conference Room. Attendance at this pre-proposal conference is mandatory and only contractors present at the pre-proposal meeting will be allowed to submit proposals.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 3.6. CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MR. EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: September 2, 2009

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 3, 1999

JAL to cut fare in Oct.
Japan Airlines will reduce by 50 percent its airfare in October, November and December 1999 as well as February and March 2000 as part of JAL's commitment to increase visitor arrivals in the CNMI. Before the end of 1999, JAL will operate nine charter flights to Saipan, three each in the months of October, November and December from Nagoya. The next millennium will be greeted by JAL with a total of eight more Nagoya-Saipan charter flights in January, February and March 2000. Likewise, JAL will have eight more charter flights from Fukuoka to Saipan. Based on the passenger arrivals record of JAL, the airline was able to bring in 19,671 visitors for the month of August alone, or a jump of 139 percent increase compared to the same month the previous year.

US Rep. Schaffer ends low-key visit to Saipan
A ranking member of the U.S. House Resources Committee ended yesterday a low-key visit to the Northern Marianas in what appeared to be part of the elaborate preparation for the forthcoming oversight hearing on the island's conditions in Washington D.C. Rep. Bob Schaffer (R-Colorado) was the latest in a string of visitors from Congress who toured the island in recent weeks following the visit of Manase Mansur, chief aide to Resources Committee Chairman Don Young (R-Alaska), and Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa). Schaffer, who arrived with a religious leader from the mainland, left yesterday morning after meeting with federal and local officials, garment workers and other business leaders.

Sept. 3, 2001

No quick fix for NMI economy
The Northern Marianas is trapped in a period of economic uncertainty, brought mainly by the four-year slump in visitor arrivals and the declining volume of apparel exports made by Saipan's garment manufacturers. This was the gist of a report presented Friday to local government officials and business sector leaders by Bank of Hawaii's Regional Economist Dr. Wali M. Osman. And as if a four-year stagnation is not hard enough, Osman painted a gloomier picture ahead, citing trends in both the Commonwealth's tourism and apparel manufacturing industries—visitor traffic to the Northern Marianas was down for the first four months of 2001 while the Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association announced that sales will be down for the year.

Drug peddling in school happens, says principal
The principal of the Marianas High School admitted Friday that there have been cases of drug peddling within the school premises, after a boy was reportedly caught with a bagful of marijuana sometime last week. But James Denight, the school's principal, said such cases merely involved "a joint or two" of marijuana, and that no large trafficking of prohibited drugs have ever happened within the school premises. "I would imagine that they've sold a joint [of marijuana] or two," said Denight, saying that past cases never involved any other prohibited substances like crystal methamphetamine, also known as "ice." Last school year, there were 20 cases where students were caught with marijuana, he said.

Sept. 3, 2002

Treasury releases $200K refunds
Have you gotten yours yet? The Division of Treasury will be mailing out today another batch of refund checks worth about $200,000, in the wake of the recent release of scholarship checks amounting to approximately the same amount. It was not learned, however, as to how many checks this amount translates to. Treasurer Antonette Calvo declined to issue any statement when Saipan Tribune checked with the Treasury Friday afternoon. However, a female Treasury employee who answered the Tribune's telephone call said they were already processing the checks.

Construction of mini mall at Saipan airport to start
The Commonwealth Ports Authority disclosed Friday that construction of a two-storey mall at the Saipan International Airport, which is seen to increase the agency's revenue collection, will start this month. CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas said port officials have finalized negotiations with the Saipan Rainbow, Inc., the firm that would undertake the construction of the mini-mall at the SIA, which would provide an array of services to Saipan's departing and arriving passengers. Salas expressed confidence that once the commercial building is constructed and the businesses are in operation, the ports authority would be able to generate additional revenue through its non-aviation services.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Japan's new rulers

How do you say "throw the bums out" in Japanese? That's what Japanese voters did on Sunday, booting the Liberal Democratic Party that has ruled almost continuously for more than half a century and leaves now with the world's second-largest economy in sorry shape. The newly elected Democratic Party of Japan is an eclectic mix of leftists and defectors from the ruling party. Its ability to run the country is untested, and its leaders have yet to explain how to pay for their populist campaign promises.

Nevertheless, this page sees the election upset as a potentially positive development. A one-party state is bound to grow stale; competition is as important in politics as it is in business.

The outgoing Liberal Democratic Party helped turn Japan from a post-World War II wreck into a global powerhouse. In league with industry and a powerful government bureaucracy, the ruling party oversaw decades of growth that offered its citizens lifelong jobs with housing and health care. But that system has been unraveling since the Japanese economy collapsed in the 1990s. Now, government scandals, recession, unemployment and an aging population's deep anxiety about the future have prompted voters who normally value stability to reject the known and embrace the promise of change.

Although the Democratic Party has never held power, key members come from the political elite, starting with leader Yukio Hatoyama, who is expected to be named prime minister. His grandfather is a founder of the just-defeated Liberal Democratic Party, and Hatoyama himself was a legislator. Other party members also have served in the Legislature or held Cabinet posts. At the same time, the party and the country should benefit from an infusion of new political blood, including many first-time legislators and more women. About a third of the 480 seats in the lower house will be filled by newcomers.

This kind of change is necessary but not sufficient to fix Japan's problems. During the campaign, the Democratic Party promised support for families with children as well as reduced taxes and highway tolls. Some of the policies suggested a return to the past, such as offering subsidies for farmers. Hatoyama must now explain how, with a public debt of 180 percent of gross domestic product, he hopes to expand the social safety net without bankrupting the country.

Hatoyama has said that Japan must strengthen its economic and security ties with East Asia. Americans should not be alarmed. China is Japan's largest trading partner, and the countries share a neighborhood. Such integration can help Japan's economic recovery without harming its ties to the U.S. A healthy Japanese economy is in everyone's interest.

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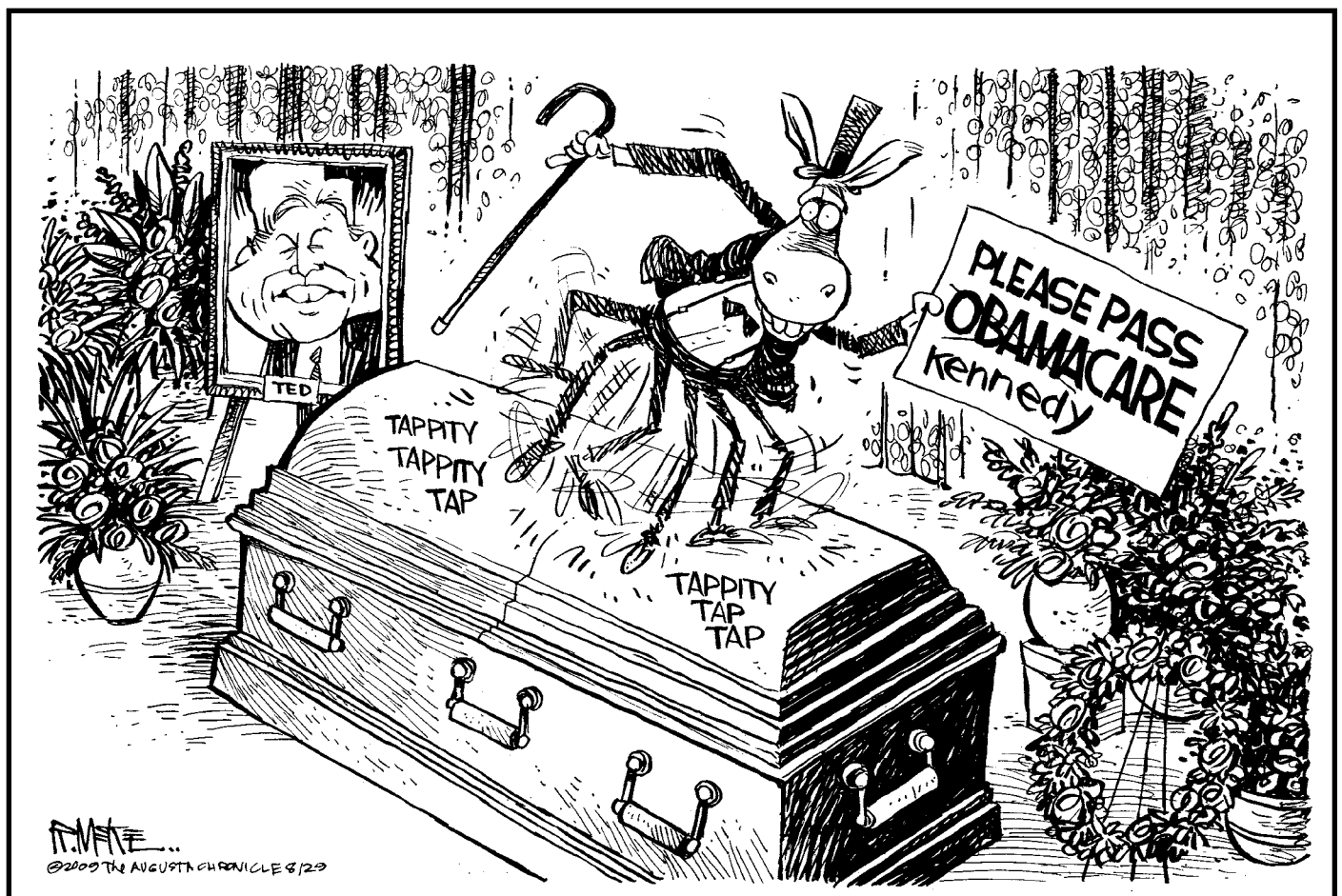
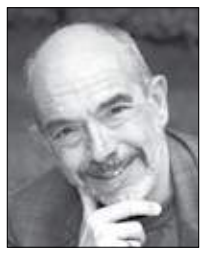


When justice is battered

By WALLY LAMB
Special to the Hartford Courant

Lamb is a novelist who lives in Mansfield, Conn.



Barbara Parsons shot and killed her abusive husband as he slept.

Bonnie Foreshaw accidentally shot and killed a pregnant woman.

Convicted of "manslaughter under emotional duress," Parsons was imprisoned at York Correctional Institution in Niantic, Conn., from 1996 to 2005.

Foreshaw entered the same facility in 1986 when Ronald Reagan was president. She is scheduled to regain her freedom in 2017, six presidential administrations later.

Well, so be it. This is justice, right? I wish it were that simple.

For 10 years, I have volunteered in a writing workshop at York. I correct my writing students' spelling, discourage their overuse of adverbs, exhort them to "show, don't tell" and bear witness to the stories of their lives. The irony is that my pupils are my teachers, too, and what prisoners' stories have taught me is that there is a tragic cause-and-effect relationship between domestic violence and the imprisonment of women who, until they snapped, had no criminal record.

Sexually abused by her grandfather when she was a little girl, Parsons later endured her husband's ridicule, his rapes and his gun-waving threats that some day he might have to make her "disappear"—endured all this, that is, until he taunted her with the news that he had molested her granddaughter. She shot him with one of the guns in his arsenal.

Foreshaw's father was a violent alcoholic. Her stepfather was a molester. Abused by two older male cousins when she was five 5, she wasn't sure which one gave her the venereal disease. She was a mother at 12. Foreshaw married abusive men. Her third husband stabbed her in the throat and fractured her skull with a baseball bat. When at last she got him out of her house, he stalked her. Afraid for her life, Foreshaw bought a gun.

Like many incarcerated women, Parsons and Foreshaw suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, whose symptoms, if untreated, include hypervigilance, dissociative amnesia, hypersensitivity to loud noises and physical proximity, and frightening flashbacks that skyrocket them without warning to an earlier traumatic event.

Foreshaw's memories of the night she committed her crime are confused and gap-ridden. Here's what Parsons remembers about the night she killed her husband: "Our bedroom was awash in yellow. In an out-of-body experience, I watched the woman pick up the gun, unable to help her or stop her."

Both women profoundly regret that they stayed with men whom they loved, loathed and feared when they should have gotten out, gotten away.

Victims of domestic abuse whose stress disorder-fueled fears cause them to commit violent criminal acts are often abused by Connecticut's judicial system as well. Foreshaw's is a glaring case in point. In March 1986, Foreshaw stopped in after work at the Progressive League, a Hartford social club, to meet a friend. Hector Freeman, another patron, offered to buy her a drink. When she declined, explaining that she didn't accept drinks from strangers, he became verbally abusive. Hoping to avoid trouble, Foreshaw left the club, but Freeman followed her, shouting insults and obscenities.

Joyce Amos, a stranger—a good Samaritan—tried to quell the disturbance. But when Freeman reached into his pocket, the hypervigilant Foreshaw feared that she would be shot. She waved her gun—the one she carried to defend against her estranged husband. Seeing it, Freeman, by his admission, pulled Amos in front of him as a human shield. The bullet Foreshaw discharged as a warning shot entered Joyce Amos and killed her. Amos, the mother of a young girl, was six months pregnant.

Many legal experts concur that, given the circumstances, Foreshaw should have been charged with manslaughter. Instead, Hartford State's Attorney James Thomas charged her with the premeditated first-degree murder of a woman whom she did not know and had killed accidentally.

At her trial, Foreshaw's public defender introduced little about her abusive history and nothing about Freeman's assault and battery convictions. Judge Paul Vasington sentenced Foreshaw—a machinist, a union shop steward and an upstanding Bloomfield, Conn., homeowner—to 45 years at Niantic.

A model prisoner who is polite, self-effacing and spiritually grounded, Foreshaw is respected by prisoners and staff alike. She says she often wonders and worries about Joyce Amos' daughter and is deeply remorseful that her irrational act deprived a little girl of her mother. At 62, she suffers from macular degeneration, rheumatoid arthritis, a torturous subdermal itching sensation, which keeps her awake nights, and other medical conditions. If Foreshaw makes it out alive in 2017, it will be a miracle.

Another miracle is possible. With a nod from Gov. M. Jodi Rell, Connecticut's Board of Pardons and Paroles under Chairman Robert Farr can right the injustice of Foreshaw's having been grossly overcharged and sentenced unreasonably. They can commute her sentence. And perhaps that might lead to a more compassionate and enlightened response from the judicial system to those who have suffered at the hands of domestic terrorists.

Shakespeare said it best: Mercy blesses both the receiver and the giver. So what do you say, Farr? How about it, Rell?

In dealing with the crimes of battered women, shouldn't we leaven punishment with a measure of compassion? Can't we open the prison door and, at long last, let Bonnie Foreshaw go free?

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Customer prevention

By **RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS**
Special to the Tribune

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.

We've written a lot of articles about customer service and how to treat your customers. In our attempt to share some ideas that get customers to return, we have totally ignored those businesses and government entities that disregard their customers and look at them as an inconvenience in their hectic day.

Now, this isn't something that managers will blatantly admit, but through their mistreatment of staff and disdain of people in general, an environment is created where employees are actually rewarded for being rude and for their attitude of indifference. Instead of looking at the customer as the lifeblood of their business and someone who ensures they receive a paycheck, employees are trained to view the customer as an annoyance.

We've selected a few good prevention techniques and tactics that businesses and government organizations have used successfully to limit the number of people who visit, or at least make their visit as unpleasant as possible so they'll think twice about coming back too soon.

■ Open your business about 20 minutes late, or close a few minutes earlier than your posted closing time. If people are meandering around 15 minutes before you close, make them feel uncomfortable by turning off the lights or following them around until they leave. As soon as they walk out the door lock it behind them so they get the message that they've made you stay a few minutes longer.

■ Have someone check every customer's purchase prior to leaving the store by taking the receipt and physically counting every item. Use some lame excuse like you want to make sure they're getting everything they paid for to keep them from knowing that you just don't trust them.

■ When customers walk into the store, ignore them. This is a common tactic that many places have perfected to keep customers from wasting their employees' time with silly questions. Encourage your staff to talk to their friends on the phone or look busy doing something so customers will have to interrupt them for assistance.

■ Ensure that you limit the number of parking spaces for customers. This is a good tactic to limit the amount of customers that can visit you at one time. Also, have your entire staff park in the best parking spots to encourage customers to go somewhere else or park in an inconvenient place.

■ During lunchtime, when most of your customers have time to do some quick shopping or take care of some action at your organization, ensure that your employees take their lunch break so there are fewer people to serve them. The wait may cause them to miss getting anything to eat before they rush back to work, but they'll get the message to plan their day a little better next time. Even better, close your establishment during lunchtime so all your employees can take a break and avoid the rush of customers.

■ Make it as inconvenient as possible to complete a transaction. For a business, you can place someone at the register that doesn't have a clue or is very slow. For a government entity, you can create a series of illogical steps that must be followed, but don't have any signs or written instructions that inform your customers what they should do next. It's always fun to watch customers look around as they try to figure out what's going on. However, be careful not to snicker because this may inadvertently alert them to your little joke and cause them to get hostile—especially if they've been waiting a long time in the wrong line or they did not sign in.

■ Who can argue against policies—those directives written in stone that have been handed down from upper management? Have a series of policies and procedures that allows you to mistreat your customers, and if anyone complains you can just tell them: "That's our policy."

■ If you serve food, make sure your staff doesn't write anything down so they can get the order wrong. If a large group is at the table, this allows you to also mix up orders and have some fun watching your customers untangle the mess.

■ Don't stock items that are popular or sell too quickly. This can mess up your ordering cycle if something is purchased too quickly. It also wastes a lot of time for your staff to repeatedly tell your customers that you don't have something in stock anymore. Even better, when it runs out, don't stock it again and just tell the customer you don't carry it any longer. This will keep them from pestering you for the item at a later date.

■ Don't reward your customers' loyalty. Treat them just like they walked into your business for the first time. If they've had an account at your bank for many years and have paid several loans on time, make them complete a detailed series of papers for a loan that makes them feel like they've never had an account. Just tell them it's your policy and they'll understand.

■ Put the wrong prices on the shelf so when customers buy your products, they will be charged a little more than the price they thought it would cost. This helps boost profits, and most of your customers will never know the difference. If someone does point out the error, you can blame it on the computer.

■ Don't encourage your staff to have good product knowledge. Too much of their valuable time will be spent talking about something your customers can figure out for themselves. If customers do ask a question about an item, just have your staff grab the item and read something on the package, or have them shrug their shoulders.

■ If you're brave enough to have a refund policy, don't place a sign at the register so customers can read it before they make a purchase. Print your policy on the receipt so they won't know about it until after they've purchased the item. It's a lot of fun to have them come back with their receipt to return something they're not satisfied with, and all you have to do is smile and point to the section they missed reading.

■ Don't offer a guarantee or return policy. This will allow people to get their money back when they know you've sold them shoddy products. Too many returns will cut into your sales and profits.

■ If a customer starts to complain, show them who's the boss by yelling at them and telling them to leave. You can always replace them with someone else. Another effective tactic is to just smile, say nothing, and totally ignore them.

If you're doing one or more of these things, you are practicing good customer prevention. Try adding one or two new tactics from the list above and you'll be able to keep your business down to a manageable number of customers. Once you master those tactics, you can keep adding more until you eventually achieve the distinction of being a customer-free establishment.

Where is the GOP's Kennedy?

By GEOFF GARIN
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Ted Kennedy's voice and leadership will be sorely missed in the effort to pass health-care reform. But when Republicans say that Democrats don't have anyone to take his place in achieving a bipartisan compromise, they are either missing, or deliberately obscuring, the relevant lesson of Kennedy's example.

The truth is that Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, with the support of the White House, has worked hard for months to reach consensus with Sens. Chuck Grassley, Olympia Snowe and Mike Enzi on a health-reform bill—incurring, for his trouble, more than a little heat from the progressive wing of the Democratic Party. But so far, the Republicans haven't had the will, courage or independence to strike a deal. Minority Leader Mitch McConnell has been doing his best to end the negotiations, apparently agreeing with Jim DeMint's political assessment that health care could be President Obama's Waterloo. And now Chuck Grassley says he could sign only a compromise that a majority of the GOP caucus would support.

The problem is not that there is no Ted Kennedy among the Democrats who understands the art of compromise. The problem is that there is no Republican willing to provide, for health reform, the kind of bold leadership that Kennedy provided to help pass controversial legislation when George W. Bush was president.

For example, No Child Left Behind become law because Kennedy agreed to support President Bush's signal education initiative—aggravating more than a few members of the Democratic caucus and establishment who thought the act was wrong on the merits and poor politics. But Kennedy believed it was worth the risk and lent his prestige and credibility to making it happen.

Democrats did not get their way on the creation of the Medicare prescription-drug benefit, but on that, too, Kennedy decided that something was better than nothing, even though seniors were required to buy their coverage through private companies and Medicare was prevented from negotiating with the pharmaceutical companies for the best prices.

Kennedy gave Bush a victory rather than sending the Republicans to their Waterloo because he believed the result was more important than short-term politics. If Republicans really want to honor the senator's memory, they should stop using him as an excuse for the failure of health-care reform and instead start living up to his example.

The writer, a Democratic pollster and strategist, is president of Hart Research Associates.

Letters to the Editor

Got noni?

Four years ago, the noni project on Tinian was created to bring new revenue to the island that would use the community workers to run the project. Now when anyone mentions the word noni on Tinian, people shake their heads in disgust, roll their eyes, or laugh.

The crazy thing about it is that, despite the fact that most people did not think that the noni project was a good idea, many still voted for the leadership whose platform included the launching of the noni project. The idea was to plant noni everywhere possible, purchase machinery to cultivate and harvest the noni, and sell it worldwide. Fact: Two supporting arguments were made: a) we need to look for other ways of generating revenue and b) the municipality already had community workers that could be used for the project. Fact: Thousands of trees were planted around the village; over a thousand of manpower hours was utilized in the planting of the noni; hundreds of gallons of gas was used to run around the island planting the noni; hundreds of gallons of water was poured to water the plant; and who knows whatever funds were miscellaneously spent for whatever purposes directly or indirectly related to this project. Fact: Thousands and thousands of municipal funds has been used for the noni project only to be abandoned.

Ask yourself, what happened to the noni? Ask yourself, why isn't it bringing the extra revenue that it promised? Ask yourself, where are the jobs, programs and services that the noni was meant to bring or support? Ask yourself, where else could we have used that money for? Ask yourself why we have noni processing machines that have not been used? Ask yourself, why am I wondering if I'm going to get paid this payday? Your kid could have gotten more scholarship. The municipality could have afforded to send you to get that medical procedure done. NMC and PSS could have gotten supplemental funding. The Tinian Youth Center could have gotten more money for programs. The list can go on. No noni. No juice. Yes they did! Are you ready for change?

Juanis King Jr.
Marpo Heights II, Tinian

Help our seniors: An appeal to businesses

This is for the attention of all managers/owners of businesses. Members of our new Commonwealth Retirement Association, with potential membership of more than 6,300, have requested that efforts be made to determine any and all businesses that offer discounts to seniors. Whether it be food service, retail sales, entertainment, services, etc., having your business known as one that offers a discount to seniors could result in more business for you in the long run. If a senior has a choice between two businesses that offer the same goods or services, but only one offers a discount, they are most likely to choose the one that offers a discount. We would like to compile a list of all such discounts, not only for our members, but for all seniors.

We will be having our first annual General Membership meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2009, at 6pm in the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. We would like to share our compiled listing with our members at that time, as well as have it posted on the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund Web site. Please contact me at donnajcruz@hotmail.com with questions or information for our listing, such as amount of discount and any restrictions. All seniors would be most appreciative for any help you can offer.

Donna J. Cruz
CRA Board Member
Chalan Piao, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

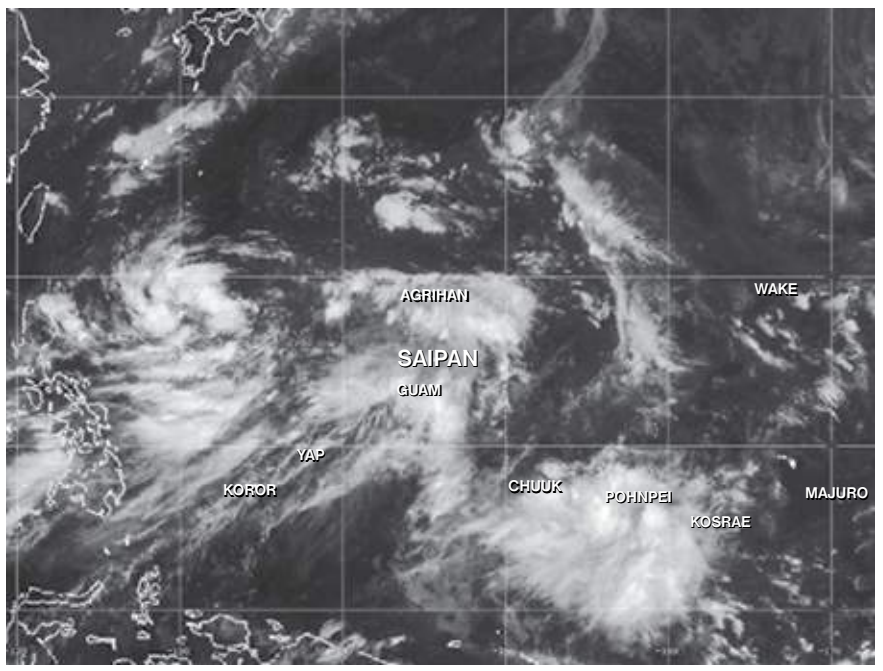
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲87	▼78
Palau	Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Yap	Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲89	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼74
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲90	▼77
Majuro	Rain	▲87	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲54	▼40
Beijing	Cloudy	▲84	▼67
Hong Kong	Showers	▲90	▼82
Honolulu	Showers	▲85	▼76
London	Showers	▲68	▼54
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲87	▼66
Manila	Rain	▲85	▼77
Melbourne	Rain	▲61	▼47
Miami	Thundershowers	▲91	▼76
New York	Sunny	▲80	▼64
Osaka	Rain	▲80	▼69
Paris	Showers	▲67	▼53
Pusan	Sunny	▲80	▼67
Rome	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼69
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲78	▼52
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲71	▼57
Seoul	Sunny	▲85	▼61
Tokyo	Rain	▲76	▼65
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲79	▼61

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough runs east from 18N130E through the CNMI at 19N145E then curves southeast to a weak circulation centered north of Pohnpei at 9N159E to end at 3N162E. Widespread showers and isolated thunderstorms are found along and up to 400 miles southwest of a line from 10N135E to 16N135E to 22N130E and within 300 miles of a line from 12N144E to 19N148E. This area includes the Marianas and the CNMI. Also, within a broad area bounded by EQ157E to 6N149E to 9N160E to EQ163E then back to EQ157E. This area includes Pohnpei.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
12:58 AM Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
6:08 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
1:11 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
7:42 PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:28 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:27 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:26 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:26 PM
Monday	6:05 AM	6:25 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:28 PM	4:38 AM
Friday	6:04 PM	5:26 AM
Saturday	6:39 PM	6:14 AM
Sunday	7:15 PM	7:02 AM
Monday	7:53 PM	7:52 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:50am	12:25pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:20am	5:10am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
C09603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

C0941	5:30am	8:05am	Daily
NW99	6:05am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25pm	Daily
C0943	5:25pm	8:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:30pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:15am	3:50am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:10am	2:40am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:10am	3:50am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:20am	11:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

C0942	9:25am	1:55pm	Daily
NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:35pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily
C0944	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ716/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

CNMI Immigration wants out of asylum program

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Division of Immigration is proposing changes to its rules and regulations to separate the CNMI from the asylum/non-refoulement program.

According to the Immigration's proposed rules and regulations, the entire non-refoulement protection program becomes the responsibility of the appropriate federal agency when any aspect of the local immigration authority is preempted by federal law, and the Commonwealth will no longer be involved in the program.

Public Law 13-61, which authorized the CNMI's participation in the non-refoulement protection program, is based on the Commonwealth's immigration authority.

Immigration's proposed amendments state that CNMI shall administer its non-refoulement protection program according to the terms and procedures set forth in the memorandum of agreement entered into between the CNMI and the Office of Insular Affairs on Sept. 12, 2003.

However, if funding for the program is not made available to the Commonwealth in the full amount necessary for all aspects of the program as covered by the MOA, "then the Department of Homeland Security shall perform all functions assigned to the Commonwealth."

Under U.S. Public Law 110-229 (federalization of CNMI immigration), U.S. asylum/non-refoulement will not be in operation in the CNMI during the federalization's transition period. Only the CNMI asylum/non-refoulement program will be in operation.

The proposed changes in Immigration rules and regulations, published in the Commonwealth Register on Aug. 24, would become effective 10 days after adoption.

According to Immigration Director Melvin L. Grey, aside from delegating authority to the U.S. with respect to refugees, the proposed revisions are also intended to correct errors and consolidate related provisions to make them easier for the public to understand and use.

Over 450 attend Witnesses' convention

A peak of 451 individuals attended the three-day sessions of the 2009 "Keep on the Watch!" District Convention of the Jehovah's Witnesses held over the past weekend on Saipan.

Both Witnesses and non-Witnesses alike from the islands of Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam came to the Marianas High School gym for a convention program that focused on the need to heed what the Witnesses say is the Bible's urgent message.

"'Stay Awake' as Christian Families!" was a convention highlight on Friday afternoon. Bible-based encouragement was given to help families stay spiritually alert to dangers that threaten their future happiness. Practical advice was given to help families preserve unity in matters of worship and their relationship with God.

"Help People to 'Awake From Sleep,'" a symposium presented on Saturday morning, was based on the passage at Romans 13:11 and showed the importance of avoiding spiritual apathy. It emphasized why Jehovah's Witnesses feel the need to intensify their efforts in the public ministry.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Firefighters Vincent Sablan, holding the fire hose, and Peno Mailo, beside the fire truck, assist Witnesses in preparing the baptismal pool that was used to baptize four new members of the church.

"Your Brother Was Dead and Came to Life" was the title of a modern-day drama that was the feature of Sunday afternoon's program. It was based on Jesus' famous parable of the prodigal son.

"The theme was excellent for conveying the need of keeping awake spiritually as Jesus stressed in his ministry," said Izaak De Beque, one of the convention's organizers. "We really have to pay serious attention not just to current events but to the Scriptural meaning behind those events and what these significant times indicate."

On Saturday, Witnesses welcomed four new members, who were baptized into the faith. The Fire Department helped fill up the collapsible pool used for the baptism.

The three-day event ended Sunday at 4pm.

"Now more than ever, all of us need these reminders," saidDe Beque. "We hope that all who attended will remain alert to the fulfillment of Bible prophecies, which are both dramatic and at the same time, promising." ***(PR)***

BACK-TO-SCHOOL WEAR

Models pose on stage wearing the "Back to School" collection for Beach Road Magazine's Summer Jam & Glam fashion show at Fiesta Resort's Hibiscus Hall last Sunday. The event was a band competition and fashion show sponsored by the Northern Marianas College, The Athlete's Foot, Boarderline, All Star Sporting Goods, IT&E, Shell, Tan Holdings, MARPAC, Adams Marine Seminars, Coca-Cola, Foremost, and Elite Printing. NMC students Chanelle Mendiola, far left, and starting third from left, Flora Aguon, Mia Jones, and Dina Jones participated in the fashion show, along with Beach Road Magazine cover models, community members, and other students.

Happy 14th birthday to our beautiful Ina Dee Dlc. Taisacan! May the great Lord Almighty continue to shower you with His many blessings. We love you Baby Dee! Greetings come from the Bitons.

Happy, happy birthday greetings go out to Hazel Tudela, who is celebrating her birthday today, Sept. 3. May the good Lord continue to bless you with many more birthdays to come! Lots of love from your crazy friends, family, and your entire MHS Dolphin family!

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Thespians' meeting on Friday

Thespians of the Western Pacific Islands will be having a meeting this Friday Sept. 4, 2009, for students in grades 6 through 12 who are interested in participating in the annual Chapter Play. This is a chance to express interest in being on-stage or helping backstage. Meeting times are 1:30pm and 4pm (to accommodate those in school and those not yet back to classes) and will be held at MHS, room 101D. Contact Harold Easton at 237-3230 for more information. ***(PR)***

Chamorro radio talk show to discuss Covenant

Chamorro radio talk show called "Marianas Agupa" that is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona will feature Herman Q. Guerrero, a former member of the Marianas Political Status Commission, on Magic 100.3 FM on Saturday, Sept. 5, 2009, between 9am to 11am in the morning. Discussion will focus on the issue relative to the Covenant provisions and the relationship between the U.S. and the people of the Northern Marianas. The phone line at the radio station will be open for question during the show. Tune in for more on Magic 100.3 FM this coming Saturday between 9am and 11am. ***(PR)***

Tinian High calendar of events

Sept. 4: Class Schedule for SY09-10 will be released from 8am to 11am at the THS front office. Parents/students are asked to pick the schedules on the above date and time.

Sept. 4: Welcome get-together (potluck) for all Tinian Elementary and Tinian High School staff at Tachogna Beach at 6:00pm. Everyone is asked to bring a dish and a pack of drinks. This will be a good time to meet the new teachers.

Sept. 5: Pitch in! All parents and the community are invited to join us and help with community cleanup at Tinian High School on Saturday, starting at 8:30am. Please bring your tools and equipment—bush cutter, machete, wheelbarrow, rake and gloves—and help clean up the campus for the opening of the school year.

Sept. 15: PTA meeting at the THS cafeteria at 7pm. Agenda will include election of officers. If you have any questions, feel free to call the following officers: Herman Hofschneider, Carla San Nicolas, Lynette Hofschneider, Annie King and Rose Lazaro.

For more information, call the office at 237-4162/4165. ***(PR)***

Notice to MHS Class of 1979

The MHS Class of 1979's 30-year reunion family picnic will be this Saturday, Sept. 5, 2009 at the Minachoum Atdao pavilion in Susupe from 8am to 6pm. Bring your children and grandchildren and let's all have fun. Call Ms. Irene at 288-2596 or Pai Sablan at 285-9910 for details. ***(PR)***

Marianas High School's opening activities

Urgent: All freshmen students must obtain a blue health card from Public Health, showing the student has all of his/ her immunizations. Failure to submit this health card may result in the student being suspended from school. Blue cards may be submitted to the Registrar's Office, Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm.

Students may pick their class schedules on Thursday and Friday, Sept. 3-4, from 8am to 3: 30pm in the Counseling Office. Returning students must return all textbooks from last school year.

The first day of classes for all students is Tuesday, Sept. 8. Homeroom will begin at 8am sharp. Please arrive early to avoid being tardy for the first day of school. Students will be released at 3pm.

If there are any questions regarding school opening, call Marianas High School 237-3206. ***(PR)***

Business

Gmail knocked offline for 'majority' of users

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Google Inc.'s Gmail service was knocked offline Tuesday in an outage that the company said affected a "majority" of its millions of e-mail users, including consumers who get Gmail for free and businesses that pay for a version for their employees.

The disruption, which lasted under two hours, was a reminder of the growing dependence on Google's technology. The free version of Gmail is the world's third most-popular e-mail program with some 149 million users worldwide in June, ranking behind the free e-mail services offered by Microsoft Corp. and Yahoo Inc., according to data from comScore Inc.

Google only says Gmail is used by tens of millions of people.

Though occasional disruptions are common, widespread outages involving Google's services are rare. They are becoming a bigger threat to Google as it tries to sell more of its services to businesses.

Businesses are increasingly leaning on Google's services because they are delivered over the Internet instead of being managed in-house. That can save companies money and buy them more storage than they could otherwise afford. But many corporations are skeptical about outsourcing such critical tasks.

Google argues that Web-based services are more reliable than those handled in-house, but big outages like Tuesday's add another challenge to selling to reluctant businesses.

Google says more than 1.75 million businesses use Gmail as part of Google Apps, which is Google's answer to business software from Microsoft Corp. It's a key part of Google's strategy to inject its brand deeper into corporations. Google Apps costs $50 per user per year.

It wasn't immediately clear what caused Tuesday's disruption, which led Gmail users to get an "Unable to reach Gmail" error message as their computers tried repeatedly to reconnect to the service. Google said it was investigating.

Hopeful economic signs tempered by wary consumers

NEW YORK (AP)—New signs of economic recovery emerged Tuesday only to be overshadowed by new worries that they won't last.

The U.S. manufacturing sector grew in August for the first time in 19 months. A gauge of future home sales surged in July to its highest point in more than two years. And auto sales—boosted by the Cash for Clunkers program—appeared in August to have marked their first year-over-year monthly gain since October 2007.

Yet hopes for a sustained recovery remain clouded by a big concern: consumer spending, which fuels about 70 percent of U.S. economic activity.

Americans are hamstrung by flat wages and job losses and aren't borrowing and spending enough to nourish a lasting rebound. That raises the vexing question of who will buy all the goods that manufacturers are producing?

Skepticism about a recovery contributed to a nasty tumble on Wall Street Tuesday, following a monthslong rally. All the major averages fell about 2 percent, with the Dow Jones industrials sliding 185 points, as concerns grew about the fragility of the banking industry and the global economy.

Stock market analysts noted that the manufacturing and housing gains were boosted by temporary government stimulus steps, including the Cash for Clunkers program, which has since expired. The clunkers program helped lift sales at Ford, Toyota and Honda in August, though Chrysler Group LLC and General Motors Co. withstood another month of falling sales.

"People reviewed the numbers and said this type of demand is just not sustainable," said Tom di Galoma, head of U.S. rates trading at Guggenheim Capital Markets LLC.

At the same time, the National Association of Realtors said its seasonally adjusted index of sales contracts signed in July for previously occupied homes rose 3.2 percent to 97.6. It was the sixth straight increase and 12 percent above the same month last year.

AP

In this Aug. 26, 2009 photo, workers inspect new Escape SUVs at Ford's Kansas City Assembly Plant in Claycomo, Mo. The Institute for Supply Management, a trade group of purchasing executives, said Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2009, its manufacturing index rose to 52.9 in August, from 48.9 in July.

Jobless rates up in fewer metro areas in July

WASHINGTON (AP)—In a sharp improvement, the largest U.S. metropolitan areas were evenly split in July between those where unemployment rates rose from June and those where rates fell.

In June, by contrast, 90 percent of the 380 metro areas had seen their jobless rates rise from the previous month.

Much of the improvement was due to seasonal factors. They include the hiring of farm workers in many agricultural states and lower unemployment in college towns after a jump at the start of summer.

The metro employment figures, issued Tuesday by the Labor Department, aren't adjusted for such seasonal changes, so they tend to be volatile from month to month. And many of the changes in local unemployment rates in July were too small to signal larger trends.

The local figures also reflect the modest improvement seen at the national level in July, when the jobless rate fell to 9.4 percent, from 9.5 percent in June. On Friday, the Labor Department will report the national unemployment rate for August. Many economists expect it to tick back up to 9.5 percent.

An Associated Press analysis of Labor Department data found that unemployment rates fell in 168 metro areas and rose in 168 others. No change was recorded in the remaining 44 areas.

The biggest improvement occurred in Kokomo, Ind. Its jobless rate dropped to 14.4 percent in July from 19.1 percent the previous month. The reopening of a Chrysler plant that makes transmissions caused much of that drop, said Christopher Cornell, an economist at Moody's Economy.com.

Chrysler reopened many factories in late June and July after emerging from bankruptcy protection. The company employed more than 4,500 people in the Kokomo area at the end of last year.

Oil prices fall as stock markets decline

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Oil prices dipped again Tuesday despite new indications that the U.S. manufacturing and housing industries may be on the mend.

Benchmark crude for October delivery fell $1.91 to settle at $68.05 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

The contract Monday lost $2.78 to settle at $69.96, meaning crude has fallen almost 6 percent this week.

On Tuesday, however, it appeared energy prices were rebounding after the Institute for Supply Management, a trade group of purchasing executives, said its manufacturing index rose to 52.9 in August. That is the first reading above 50, which indicates expansion, since January 2008. It's also the highest since June 2007.

The National Association of Realtors said pending U.S. home sales rose to the highest level in more than two years as first-time buyers rushed to take advantage of a tax credit that expires this fall.

That type of news this year has pushed energy prices higher because if heavy industries are ramping up production and people are buying homes, it is likely that spending on energy will rise as well.

The bounce in energy prices Tuesday was short-lived and both equity and energy markets reversed course before noon.

PFGBest analyst Phil Flynn questioned whether the manufacturing report gave a skewed image of the economy.

"The question is the sustainability," he said.

Another possible reason for the volatile prices Tuesday is the low volume on the floor of the Nymex.

It is typical for futures prices to swing in the week before a holiday and some traders said there was nothing to be read into falling prices before the Labor Day weekend begins.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

EBay partially undoes Skype deal, selling majority

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Rather than enduring the uncertainty of spinning off the Skype telecommunications service through a public stock offering, eBay Inc. has found a different way out: It is selling the majority of Skype for about $2 billion to a group of private investors. The deal will help eBay undo its 2005 acquisition of Skype.

GM delays new Buick shipments on quality concerns

DETROIT (AP)—General Motors Co. said Tuesday the rollout of its new 2010 Buick LaCrosse is being delayed for a few weeks due to quality concerns. Speaking to analysts and reporters during a conference call on August sales, GM's vice president of U.S. sales Mark LaNeve said about 300 to 400 of the cars were shipped in August, but further deliveries are on hold until the company works out what it called "quality issues." The company wouldn't offer specifics on exact problems.

Southwest gets more time to repair planes

DALLAS (AP)—Federal officials are giving Southwest Airlines until Dec. 24 to replace unapproved parts on about 50 airplanes. The Federal Aviation Administration said Tuesday that the parts do not prevent safe operation of the planes. The jets' manufacturer, Boeing Co., had reached the same conclusion. The FAA will let Southwest fly the planes as long as they are inspected every seven days and the unapproved parts on the wings are replaced by Dec. 24. The planes make up about 10 percent of Southwest's fleet of Boeing 737 aircraft.

Worries about banks drag stock market lower

NEW YORK (AP)—A stock market ripe for a big pullback succumbed Tuesday, plunging when rumors of a bank failure revived investors' anxiety about the banking industry and the economy as a whole. Major indexes all fell about 2 percent and the Dow Jones industrials slid 185 points. The Dow dropped 185.68, or 2 percent, to 9,310.60. The index is down 270 points, or 2.8 percent, since Friday, its biggest drop over three days since July 7, when it lost 341 points. The S&P 500 fell 22.58, or 2.2 percent, to 998.04, while the Nasdaq composite index fell 40.17, or 2 percent, to 1,968.89.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA	4,436.600 Down 74.700 (-1.66%)
HONG KONG	19,576.11 Down 296.19 (-1.49%)
JAKARTA	2,290.332 Down 36.582 (-1.57%)
TOKYO	10,280.46 Down 249.60 (-2.37%)
K. LUMPUR	1,176.90 Down 4.34 (-0.37%)
MANILA	2,808.21 Down 44.72 (-1.57%)
SINGAPORE	2,573.20 Down 23.19 (-0.89%)
SEOUL	1,613.16 Down 9.9 (-0.61%)
BANGKOK	650.08 Down 4.04 (-0.62%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	9,310.60 -185.68
NASDAQ	1,968.89 -40.17
S&P	998.04 0.00

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.2023
British Pound	0.619
Canadian Dollar	1.103
Chinese Renmbi	6.8315
Euro	0.7035
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7512
Indian Rupee	49.122
Indonesian Rupiah	10152.395
Japanese Yen	92.83
Malaysian Ringgit	3.5415
New Zealand Dollar	1.4809
Philippine Peso	48.895
Singapore Dollar	1.4444
South Korean Won	1250.4
Swiss Franc	1.0668
Taiwan Dollar	32.893
Thailand Baht	34.025

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Nation

Huge wildfire portends bad Calif. fire season

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Firefighters reported some progress Tuesday against a gigantic blaze on the edge of Los Angeles, but warned that this one might be just a preview of even greater dangers ahead. The peak Southern California fire season hasn't even started yet. The worst fires typically flare up in the fall, when ferocious Santa Ana winds can drive fires out of wilderness areas and into suburbs. As a result, Southern California could be in for a long wildfire season.

"When you see a fire burning like this, with no Santa Ana winds, we know that with the winds, it would be so much worse, so much more intense," said Los Angeles County fire Capt. Mark Whaling.

The Santa Anas are so devastating when they carry fire because they sweep down from the north and reach withering speeds as they squeeze through wilderness canyons and passes and plunge into developed areas.

Even though winds have been mostly calm since the blaze began along the northern fringe of Los Angeles and its suburbs, the flames have spread over 190 square miles of forest in a week. Some 12,000 homes remained threatened as 3,600 firefighters and aircraft battled the blaze across a 50-mile line.

But it was not the only significant blaze in Southern California.

AP

Firefighters set back fires trying to keep a fire in the Deukmejian Wilderness Park from jumping a fire break into a neighborhood in the La Crescenta section of Glendale, Calif., Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2009.

In the inland region east of Los Angeles, 2,000 homes were being threatened by a fire of more than 1.5 square miles in the San Bernardino County community of Oak Glen, and a nearby 1.3-square-mile blaze was putting 900 homes at risk in Yucaipa.

"There's action everywhere," Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said as a helicopter interrupted his comments at a news conference in San Bernardino County.

The big fire, known as the Station Fire, was just 5 percent surrounded, but U.S. Forest Service incident commander Mike Dietrich said that figure could double by the end of the day, and he was pleased with progress.

Freed reporters describe North Korea ordeal

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The two American television reporters imprisoned in North Korea for 4 1/2 months said Tuesday that they never intended to cross a frozen river into the communist country.

In an article posted on Current TV's Web site, Laura Ling and Euna Lee said they hesitantly followed their guide when he beckoned them across the waterway and were "firmly back" on the Chinese side when North Korean border guards grabbed them on March 17.

"We didn't spend more than a minute on North Korean soil before turning back, but it is a minute we deeply regret," the journalists wrote. "To this day, we still don't know if we were lured into a trap."

The article provides the most thorough accounting to date of the circumstances surrounding the women's incarceration. At the time of their arrest, the two were reporting a story for San Francisco-based Current TV about North Korean women who were forced into the sex trade or arranged marriages when they defected to China.

After their capture, Lee and Ling were sentenced to 12 years of hard labor for trespassing and "hostile acts" against North Korea.

The country pardoned them last month after former president Bill Clinton visited Pyongyang on their behalf.

Lee and Ling said that while they were in detention, they swallowed their notes, damaged their videotapes and made other efforts to protect the identities of their sources.

The two said some parts of their captivity are too painful to revisit publicly, but that their experiences "pale when compared to the hardship facing so many people living in North Korea or as illegal immigrants in China."

Customers say kidnap suspect raised no red flags

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—To those who did business with him, Phillip Garrido was a quirky printing company owner who produced business cards, brochures and flyers for people in his town. His main source of help was a young soft-spoken woman he introduced as his daughter.

Former clients of Garrido are now horrified that the woman was actually Jaycee Lee Dugard, allegedly held captive in a ramshackle backyard compound for years by Garrido. They are also stunned to think that they had allowed a convicted sex offender into their businesses and, in at least one case, their home.

"I can think of numerous occasions he had been in the house with my kids while he delivered cards," said Ben Daughdrill of Oakley, who ran a hauling business and was Garrido's customer for six years. "Looking back now, it just disgusts me."

His business was called Printing for Less, and he built his clientele by word of mouth, mostly thanks to his low rates. His labor costs may have been minimal, since his main worker appears to have been Dugard.

Customers who worked with Dugard said she was professional and competent. Her demeanor gave no one reason to believe she was being abused or in any kind of danger. They say she did not venture much conversation, let alone reach out for help.

The family appeared to dress in second-hand clothes, sometimes ill-fitting, which gave the impression they were poor, Daughdrill said. Garrido often talked of money problems, he said, and once drove to Daughdrill's house in a "ratty car" that he said matched the description of the car used in Dugard's 1991 kidnapping.

Video shows chicks ground up alive at egg hatchery

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—An animal rights group publicized a video Tuesday showing unwanted chicks being tossed alive into a grinder at an Iowa plant and accused egg hatcheries of being "perhaps the cruelest industry" in the world.

The undercover video was shot by Chicago-based Mercy for Animals at a hatchery in Spencer, Iowa, over a two-week period in May and June. The video was first obtained Monday by The Associated Press.

"We have to ask ourselves if these were puppies and kittens being dropped into grinders, would we find that acceptable?" asked Nathan Runkle, the group's executive director, at a news conference in Des Moines. "I don't think that most people would."

The group said that tossing male chicks, which have little value because they can't lay eggs or be raised quickly enough to be raised profitably for meat, into grinders is common industry practice. United Egg Producers, a trade group for U.S. egg farmers, confirmed that.

The hatchery is owned by West Des Moines-based Hy-Line North America and is one of many operations in Iowa, the nation's leading egg producer.

The video, shot with a hidden camera and microphone by a Mercy for Animals employee who got a job at the plant, shows a Hy-Line worker sorting through a conveyor belt of chirping chicks, flipping some of them into a chute like a poker dealer flips cards.

AP

HUNTING WOLVES

This picture provided by Robert Millage shows Millage, 34, of Kamiah, Idaho, posing with the first reported wolf killed in Idaho on Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2009—the opening day of the state's 2009 season. The real estate agent took the day off of work to hunt the predators, which were removed from the endangered species list earlier this year. Millage says he shot the wolf from 25 yards near a ridge along the Lochsa River in northern Idaho. Gray wolves were back in the cross hairs of hunters on Tuesday, just months after they were removed from the federal endangered species list and eight decades since being hunted to extinction across the Northern Rockies.

ACROSS THE NATION

Mass. attorney general is 1st to seek Kennedy seat

BOSTON (AP)—The race for the U.S. Senate seat left vacant by the death last week of Edward Kennedy got off to a cautious start Tuesday, despite a tight five-month election schedule that leaves little time for campaigning. By the end of the day just one major candidate—state Attorney General Martha Coakley—opted to take out nomination papers. A campaign aide declined to comment. Other possible contenders decided to hold back in part to see whether a member of the Kennedy family might decide to enter the race—including Kennedy's widow Vicki Kennedy or his nephew, the former U.S. Rep. Joseph P. Kennedy II.

Guilty plea for ex-NYC police officer in bank jobs

NEW YORK (AP)—A former rookie police officer pleaded guilty Tuesday to robbing the same bank twice after a friend who worked as a teller there convinced him it would be "easy money." Christian Torres, 23, told a federal judge that he was struggling to pay his bills when he hatched the inside job with the teller, Christina Dasrath, in 2007. "It was premeditated," he said. "We discussed ... how we would split (the money) in the end."

New GI Bill housing checks flowing but some delays

Facing a rush of last-minute claims, the Department of Veterans Affairs has cut housing checks to tens of thousands of veterans returning to college under the newly expanded GI Bill but officials acknowledge several thousand may get their money later than expected. With the academic year recently under way, Tuesday was the first day many veterans were due their first monthly housing stipends, which range from under $1,000 to upward of $2,500 depending on factors including location. ***(AP)***

1 dead when helicopter hits duplex in Miss.

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—A helicopter practicing aerial maneuvers crashed into a duplex Tuesday, killing one person on board and injuring another, authorities said. No one on the ground was hurt. Jack Mazurak, a spokesman for the University of Mississippi Medical Center, said the injured person was in critical condition and the other person on board had died. Neither has been identified. The crumpled helicopter sat nose-down near the wooden porch, and a piece of one of the rotor blades pierced the porch roof.

Asia

Pakistani soldiers kill 40 militants in Khyber raids

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Government forces destroyed four militant bases and killed 40 insurgents Tuesday in a new offensive near Pakistan's famed Khyber Pass, the main route for supplies to U.S. and NATO troops in Afghanistan, authorities said.

The offensive follows a suicide blast in the region last week that killed 19 police officers at a key border crossing.

Tariq Hayat, the top administrator in Khyber, told reporters 40 militants were killed and 43 arrested. The four destroyed bases belonged to the militant group Lashkar-e-Islam, he said. The death toll could not be independently verified.

The military paraded the detainees—blindfolded with their own shirts and hands tied—at Hayat's press briefing in Peshawar. An AP photographer saw a handicapped man among the suspects who was carried in by a soldier from a military truck.

A truck loaded with the bodies of militants was seen outside the briefing, where captured weapons, including rocket launchers and assault rifles, were displayed.

Hayat gave no indication of whether a sustained operation was planned in the area, through which scores of trucks carrying fuel and other goods to U.S and NATO troops in Afghanistan travel each day. The convoys are often targeted.

Poll: Japan voters fed up with ruling party

TOKYO (AP)—Most Japanese voters chose the opposition in historic week end elections because they were fed up with a half century of rule by the governing conservatives, not because they were enthused by what the opposition had to offer, a poll said Wednesday.

The poll by the major national newspaper Asahi suggested the Democratic Party of Japan, which took control of the powerful lower house of parliament by winning 308 of the 480 seats, has only a conditional mandate and must make good on its promises to mend the flagging economy and lower the record unemployment rate quickly if it is to stay in power.

The Democrats are expected to form a new government and name leader Yukio Hatoyama as prime minister on Sept. 16, replacing outgoing Taro Aso.

Aso has announced he will step down as president of the conservative, pro-big business Liberal Democratic Party, which has led Japan for all but nearly 11 months since it was created in 1955.

In the first major poll since Sunday's elections, the Asahi said 81 percent of respondents felt the reason for the Democrats' win was that voters wanted a new administration. Only 38 percent said the victory was due to support for the party's polices, it said.

Free trips to Thailand for the Internet savvy

BANGKOK (AP)—Attention Internet-savvy travelers: Thailand is giving away free trips to five lucky couples who don't mind sitting in front of a computer while on vacation.

The Tourism Authority of Thailand launched a new campaign Tuesday offering five couples fully paid trips to the country's most popular cities and beaches. In return, they will be asked to blog, chat and tweet about their holiday in a bid to win a grand prize of $10,000, a BlackBerry and a video camera.

Applicants should be "good storytellers" and must know how to navigate YouTube, Twitter, Facebook and Flickr, the TAT said on the contest's newly launched Web site http://www.utlimatethailandexplorer.com where one-minute video auditions can be submitted until Oct. 15.

Thailand's tourism industry is facing its worst crisis in years, with foreign arrivals down 15 percent so far this year because of political upheaval and the global recession.

Tourism officials say they were inspired by Australia's recent highly publicized campaign dubbed the "Best Job in the World." The contest to serve as the caretaker on a tropical Australian island for six months, while promoting the destination on a blog, drew 35,000 applicants and worldwide media attention.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Chinese sentences dissident to 13 years jail

BEIJING (AP)—A Chinese dissident who tried to organize a national meeting of the banned China Democracy Party has been sentenced to 13 years in jail for subverting state power, his lawyer said Wednesday. Xie Changfa, 57, was tried in April and sentenced Tuesday by the Changsha Municipal Intermediate Court in southern China's Hunan province, his lawyer Ma Gangquan said in a telephone interview. He plans to appeal, Ma said. China allows a small number of officially recognized alternative parties, although they serve as advisers rather than competitors to the ruling Communist Party.

Seoul sees NKorea's overtures as tactical changes

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A top South Korean official said Wednesday that North Korea's recent conciliatory gestures do not represent any fundamental changes, saying the communist country is showing no signs of ending its nuclear weapons program. Unification Minister Hyun In-taek told ruling party lawmakers Wednesday that the North's recent overtures are "just tactical changes because the North has neither declared its return to the six-nation talks nor changed its position" on its nuclear program. Hyun is South Korea's point person on the North.

Taiwan court convicts former first lady of perjury

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—A court has sentenced Taiwan's former first lady to a year in jail for giving false testimony in a wide-ranging corruption case involving her and her husband, a preliminary verdict in a major trial expected to wrap up later this month. Wu Shu-chen, wife of former President Chen Shui-bian, was convicted on charges of asking her children to lie during a probe into the graft case, the Taipei District Court said in a verdict handed out late Tuesday. It said that Chen's son, daughter and son-in-law each were sentenced to six months in jail for perjury.

Violent protests in China over sewage plant smell

BEIJING (AP)—Protests drawing up to 10,000 people flared in eastern China over a powerful stench from a sewage treatment plant with 10 people hurt in clashes, residents and a human rights monitor said Tuesday. The demonstration occurred Monday when angry villagers from Fujian province's Fengwei town confronted 2,000 riot police over a wastewater treatment plant that had fouled local air and water, Hong Kong-based Information Center for Human Rights and Democracy said. At least 10 people were injured.

World

US fares poorly in child welfare survey

PARIS (AP)—America has some of the industrial world's worst rates of infant mortality, teenage pregnancy and child poverty, even though it spends more per child than better-performing countries such as Switzerland, Japan and the Netherlands, a new survey indicates.

The OECD, a Paris-based watchdog of industrialized nations, urged the United States to shift more of its public spending to its youngest children, under the age of six, to improve their health and educational performance.

The report released Tuesday, "Doing Better for Children," marks the first time the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development has reported on child well-being within its 30 member countries.

The U.S. spends an average of $140,000 per child, well over the OECD average of $125,000. But this spending is skewed heavily toward older children between 12 and 17, the OECD survey showed.

U.S. spending on children under six, a period the OECD says is key to children's future well-being, lags far behind other countries, amounting to only $20,000 per child on average compared to the OECD average of $30,000, the survey showed.

"A better balance of spending between the 'Dora the Explorer' years of early childhood and the teenage 'Facebook' years would help improve the health, education and well-being of all children in the long term," the OECD said.

As a result, it says, infant mortality in the U.S. is the fourth-worst in the OECD after Mexico, Turkey and Slovakia. American 15-year-olds rank seventh from the bottom on the OECD's measure of average educational achievement. Child poverty rates in the U.S. are nearly double the OECD average, at 21.6 percent compared to 12.4 percent.

The rate of teen births in the U.S. is three times the OECD average, with only Mexico recording a higher rate among OECD countries, the report said.

Timothy Smeeding, author of "Poor Kids in a Rich Country: America's Children in Comparative Perspective," said America's troubles stem from a flawed mix of government spending and not enough help for the working poor.

HURRICANE JIMENA

Waves crash at the Marsol hotel in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2009. Heavy winds, battering waves and bands of intense rain pummeled residents and tourists in this vacation resort as Hurricane Jimena, one of the largest hurricanes this year, raked Baja California's southern coast late Tuesday. The state prepared shelters to hold up to 29,000 people as Jimena, which weakened to a still threatening Category 3, churned northward with 115 mph (185 kph) winds.

AP

Australian vet dies of rare virus from horse

BRISBANE, Australia (AP)—An Australian veterinarian has died from a rare viral disease after treating an infected horse, becoming the fourth known fatality from the illness since it was discovered in 1994, a health official said Wednesday.

Queensland state Health Minister Paul Lucas said Alister Rodgers died overnight in a hospital, after treating a foal in July that was infected with the virus.

The foal originally was thought to have died from a snake bite but Hendra was later confirmed in horses at a Queensland nursery that was subsequently quarantined. Four other people who came into contact with the infected horses have tested negative for Hendra.

The virus, named for the Australian suburb where it was found, causes flulike symptoms that can lead to pneumonia or encephalitis. It is believed to originate in fruit bats in Australia and mainly infects horses. The few human infections have come from direct exposure to tissues and secretions from infected horses.

The Australian Veterinary Association has called for more research into the Hendra virus.

"We are really sad that we have lost another colleague and our sympathies go out to Alister's family and work mates," association President Mark Lawrie said. "It's a problem that's not going to go away. We have to change the way we do things."

The Hendra virus was first discovered in a 1994 outbreak that killed a horse trainer and 13 horses. The next year, a farmer assisting in an autopsy of an infected horse became ill and died. In August 2008, another veterinarian died of the virus after treating infected horses at his clinic.

All seven people who have contracted the virus since its discovery have been in the state of Queensland.

Boxing legend Ali traces roots to Irish town

DUBLIN (AP)—Muhammad Ali made a sentimental journey Tuesday to discover his Irish roots, and met distant relatives during celebrations at the local town hall and a nearby castle.

Thousands lined the streets of Ennis, western Ireland, to cheer his motorcade as the three-time heavyweight champion visited the home of his great-grandfather Abe Grady.

Fans adorned streets with red, white and blue bunting and flags, while shop windows competed to display the most impressive posters honoring Ali—including one tongue-in-cheek portrait of him appearing ready to knock out an unpopular Irish politician.

Ali, who is 67 and battling Parkinson's disease, fought only once in Ireland, knocking out Alvin Lewis at Dublin's Croke Park on July 19, 1972.

Ali offered a few playful jabs to cameras but made no public comments and steered clear of throngs of autograph-seekers Tuesday, among them hundreds of kids whose schools closed early for the event. Police blocked off roads and kept crowds in line with railings.

Grady settled in Kentucky in the 1860s and married a freed slave. One of their grandchildren, Odessa Lee Grady Clay, gave birth to Ali—then Cassius Clay—in 1942.

Genealogists pinpointed Ali's Irish links in 2002, but Ali had never visited Ennis.

His visit to Ennis Town Hall was broadcast live on big-screen televisions outside, where locals also took in a live concert by traditional musicians, including best-selling accordionist Sharon Shannon.

Environment

Taking the measure of fish caught on Saipan

By JOSE TENORIO QUAN
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

My name is Jose Tenorio Quan. I'm 19 years of age and currently attending Santa Clara University pursuing a degree in management and environmental studies. This is the third summer that I have been participating with the CNMI's coral program internship. The only difference between the past two summers and this summer is that I am interning at a non-profit organization called Pacific Marine Resource Institute currently being managed by Dr. Peter Houk, who works in conjunction with the CNMI's governmental coral program.

My typical day consists of waking up at around 8am and checking in with the local fish markets for any new reef-fish catches that have come in from the fishermen who mostly operate at night. When a market receives its fish, my team and I rendezvous with our equipment on hand. Our equipment consists of a cooler, a fish measuring board, gloves, a datasheet, and a pen. Typically one or two people embrace the full experience and handle the fish, while the third serves as the data recorder. One person calls out the scientific name of the fish, the second person takes the measurement, and the third person records the information. Once the data collection from the markets is completed, I enter the data into an Excel workbook for summary and analysis.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Jose Tenorio Quan shows off a Napoleon wrasse.

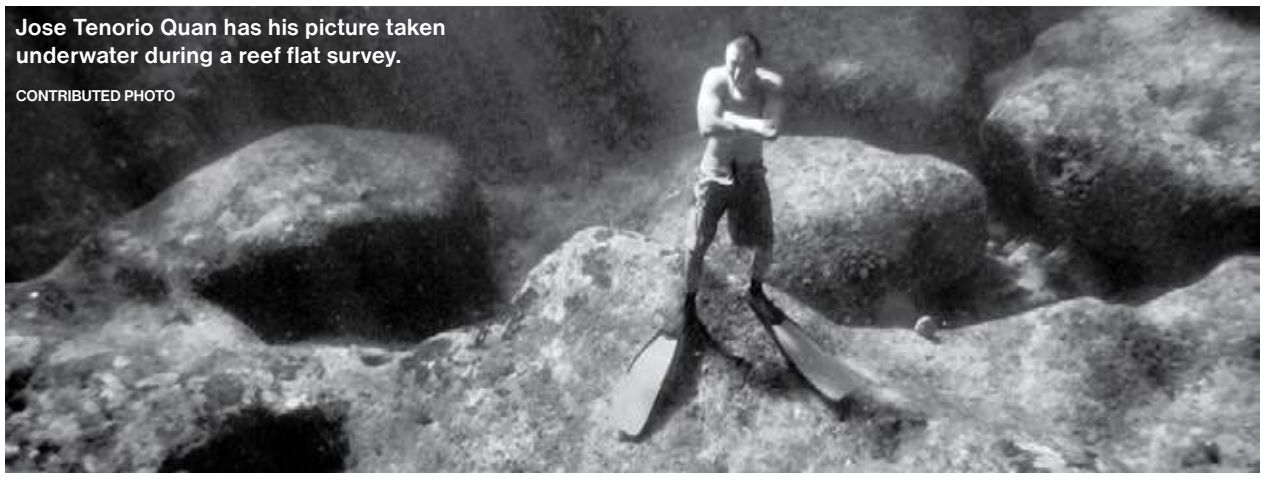
While I am the lucky person that deals with the bulk of data reporting, I have many partners to assist me along the way. My sponsor for the summer internship is Dr. Peter Houk from the Pacific Marine Resources Agency, a small non-profit that assists CNMI's natural resource management agencies collect scientific data for management. Besides Pete and I, our crew consists of several interns and staff associated with CNMI's Marine Monitoring Team, too many to name but all are very appreciated.

Since the late weeks of June, we have collected data from four key fish markets. To date, we have measured 4,454 individual fish and converted the lengths to weight. Thanks to multiple studies conducted around the world, Scientists have come up with a formula that can take the length of an exact species of fish and calculate an approximate weight. In translation, the total weight of fish that my team and I have came across amounts to about 3,700 lbs of reef fish caught mainly in the night time, by spear. Since our efforts are not logistically able to measure all the fish caught within all the markets on all days, we estimated the actual weight of fish harvested to date for local market sales lies around 5,000 lbs, from late June until the present.

Of the amount of fish my team has measured, 70 percent of the total weight consists of two families of fish. Some 2,590 lbs of reef fish consisted of the *Scaridae* and *Acanthuridae* families. This includes delicious reef fishes like parrot fishes, unicorn fishes, and surgeon fishes. In local terms, fishes like palaksi, tataga, hangon, and hiyuk amount to 70 percent of the total reef fishes harvested. Interestingly, these two families of fish constitute the majority of the herbivores found on CNMI's reefs. The functionality of herbivores is to graze algae and limited amounts of coral from the reef. In contrast, carnivores, which made up only a limited (less than 10 percent) of the catch eat small invertebrates and fish.

One of our goals is to understand if the balance of herbivores and carnivores in Saipan's markets is different from other islands such as Guam, Pohnpei, and Palau, where similar surveys are ongoing, and if any of these differences can be linked with reef function and "health." Additionally the data will help understand population dynamics of desirable food fish, hopefully to ensure our catches remain consistent in the years to come. Stay tuned for more details regarding my project this summer as our team continues to gather and analyze data.

Finally, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to all of the markets that have allowed us to survey their fish this summer and learn more about our reef fishery.



Jose Tenorio Quan has his picture taken underwater during a reef flat survey.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Conservation from the water's edge

By TYLER JAMES WARWICK
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Håfa Adai and Tirow wóómi CNMI! My name is Tyler James Warwick. I am 19 years old and currently a second year college student at Chabot Community College in Hayward, California. I am pursuing a transfer to the University of California at Santa Cruz to obtain a bachelor's degree in marine biology. A good friend of mine introduced me to this internship with a promising opportunity to help study and appreciate the beauty of our islands. During this past summer I was given a chance to work as a marine monitoring intern at the Coastal Resources Management office under the Coral Reef Initiative program. Throughout the summer program I worked under marine biologist John Starmer, in addition to marine technicians David Benavente and Rodney Camacho.

This summer Coastal Resources Management teamed up with Division of Environmental Quality and the Pacific Marine Resource Institute to conduct surveys on the marine life of the CNMI. As part of the Marine Monitoring Team, my duties were to survey and study the marine life found in our lagoons. I collected data and studied various marine species, such as sea cucumbers, ghost crabs and reef flats.

In addition to my duties under CRM, I assisted Pacific Marine Resource Institute employees in conducting fish surveys at five local fish markets on Saipan. I worked alongside PMRI marine biologist Peter Houk. Along with fellow intern Jose Quan, we identified and collected length measurements of reef fish found in the Marianas. Fish surveys were some of my favorite phases of the program. The study enticed me to learn scientific names as well as common names of the different fish sold in our local fish markets. The study also gave me a sense of how much fish are actually sold in our markets.

Monitoring sea cucumbers was the most challenging part of the internship. It required us to walk long distances along coastal areas and to swim for long periods of time. Over the summer, I became exceptionally familiar with the scientific names and different types of sea cucumbers found in our waters, as well as their importance to our lagoons. I have come to realize that these sea cucumbers play a very important role in keeping the CNMI's coastal waters clean and crystal clear.

Another project I participated in was to conduct ghost crab surveys with fellow marine monitoring interns, Steven Johnson and Kalani Reyes. For this project, we essentially scanned a variety of beach areas and searched for ghost crab clusters. My team collected measurements of distances from the holes to the high tide mark. We also measured distances from the holes to the shoreline, as well as how many were located in that specific area. The data recorded from this survey gave us an idea of where ghost crabs lived and how much their numbers were. Later, we compared the data from sites with coastal developments to sites without coastal developments.

Reef flat surveys were conducted every other week to measure the biodiversity of an area. All coral reef initiative interns were required to participate in one of these reef flats surveys. I gained a wealth of knowledge from these surveys because I was required to learn the scientific names of coral, microalgae, and macro invertebrates. Conducting reef flat surveys were some of the projects that I enjoyed the most because it gave me the chance to learn so many different aspects of our island's reef flats. I have learned a great deal about our coastal environment and marine life throughout my summer internship experience. My experience influenced me to obtain a scuba certification. I was also offered a maritime archaeology course, where I learned how to map and sketch underwater wrecks in our lagoons.

This internship experience was truly a blessing. It has opened many doors for me as a college student, and I look forward to more opportunities to come back to work in summer programs in the CNMI. I encourage more students to take advantage of these types of programs while they are still able to. I would like to give a special thanks to Brooke Nevitt, John Starmer and all the CRM staff, the DEQ Marine Monitoring Team, Peter Houk and the PMRI staff, and especially to all the interns for making this internship a truly unforgettable experience. Thank you, Olomwaay & Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tyler James Warwick conducts a reef flat survey.

Life & Style

Best-selling Bible to undergo revision

By ERIC GORSKI
AP RELIGION WRITER

The top-selling Bible in North America will undergo its first revision in 25 years, modernizing the language in some sections and promising to reopen a contentious debate about changing gender terms in the sacred text. The New International Version, the Bible of choice for conservative evangelicals, will be revised to reflect changes in English usage and advances in Biblical scholarship, it was announced Tuesday. The revision is scheduled to be completed late next year and published in 2011.

"We want to reach English speakers across the globe with a Bible that is accurate, accessible and that speaks to its readers in a language they can understand," said Keith Danby, global president and CEO of Biblica, a Colorado Springs, Colo.-based Christian ministry that holds the NIV copyright.

But past attempts to remake the NIV for contemporary audiences in different editions have been plagued by controversies about gender language that have pitted theological conservatives against each other.

The changes did not make all men "people" or remove male references to God, but instead involved dropping gender-specific terms when translators judged that the original text didn't intend it. So in some verses, references to "sons of God" became "children of God," for example.

Supporters say gender-inclusive changes are more accurate and make the Bible more accessible, but critics contend they twist meaning or smack of political correctness.

Acknowledging past missteps, the NIV's overseers are promising that this time, the revision process will be more transparent and that they will actively promote what they describe as a long-held practice of inviting input from scholars and readers.

AP
In this photo taken on April 22, 2009, Seminarian Joseph Toledo holds his Bible during the morning Mass at the Redemptorist Mater Archdiocesan Missionary Seminary in Denver.

The NIV was first published in 1978 and more than 300 million NIV Bibles are in print worldwide; its publishers and distributors say the translation accounts for 30 percent of Bibles sold in North America.

The Committee on Bible Translation, an independent group of conservative scholars and translators formed in 1965 to create and revise the NIV, will oversee the new revision.

An effort earlier this decade to create a separate version of the NIV that used more gender-inclusive language in an attempt to reach a younger audience fell flat with groups that felt it crossed the line.

That edition, Today's New International Version, will cease publication once the new-look NIV is released, said Moe Girkins, president of Grand Rapids, Mich.-based Zondervan, its North American publisher.

"Whatever its strengths, the TNIV has become an emblem of division in the evangelical Christian world," Girkins said.

It was the TNIV that ushered in changes from "sons of God" to "children of God," or "brothers" to "brothers and sisters." In Genesis I, God created "human beings" in his own image instead of "man."

Many prominent pastors and scholars endorsed the changes. But critics said masculine terms in the original should not be tampered with. Some warned that changing singular gender references to plural ones alters what the Bible says about God's relationships with individuals.

The Southern Baptist Convention passed a resolution saying the edition "has gone beyond acceptable translation standards."

Twitter opens a door to Iowa operating room

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—From anesthesia to the recovery room, 70-year-old Monna Cleary's children followed her surgery—140 characters or less at a time.

Twitter is opening doors to the sterile confines of operating rooms, paving the way for families—and anyone else for that matter—to follow a patient's progress as they go under the knife.

Most of the Cleary family chose to track the developments from a laptop computer in the hospital's waiting room. But one daughter-in-law kept tabs from work.

"It's real time information instead of sitting and not knowing in the waiting room," said Cleary's son Joe, hours after his mother's surgery Monday at St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids.

"It made the time go by," said Cleary, who was joined by a brother, two sisters and a sister-in-law at the hospital. "We all feel it was a positive experience."

His mother, who underwent a hysterectomy and uterine prolapse surgery, had given her OK for hospital spokeswoman Sarah Corizzo to post a play-by-play of the operation on Twitter, a social-networking site that lets users send out snippets of information up to 140 characters long using cell phones or computers.

Corizzo sent more than 300 tweets over more than three hours from a computer just outside the operating room's sterile field. Nearly 700 people followed them. Eight tweeted questions to Corizzo about the procedure and a Cleary family member commented on how fascinating it was to follow the surgery.

The primary goal of the Twitter posts was education, Corizzo said, but it had the added benefit of keeping the family informed during surgery. It also helps to raise the profile of the hospital.

The idea to follow the surgery on Twitter at St. Luke's evolved after a similar surgery was Webcast several months ago.

"A lot of people would like to go into the operating room and see what happens but don't want all the visuals and stuff," said Laura Rainey, another hospital spokeswoman. "This is a more gentle way to help inform patients and consumers."

The Iowa hospital isn't the first to describe a surgery on Twitter. Others include Children's Medical Center in Dallas, which tweeted in May when a father donated a kidney to his son, and Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, where officials have tweeted about several surgeries since January.

Dian Luffman, a spokeswoman with Change:healthcare, a business that helps clients save money on procedures, said hospitals using Twitter during surgery is a sign that it's entering the mainstream, especially among the 20-and-30 somethings.

"I think hospitals are trying to build relationships," she said.

Amanda Gillbret, whose husband and son were involved in the Dallas kidney transplant, said she appreciated being able to monitor her husband's surgery at another hospital while she was at Children's Medical Center with her son.

"I felt like I was part of my husband's surgery and connected to what he was going through but was there with my son, too," Gillbret said. "It gave me a huge peace and it was just comforting knowing what was happening."

'Spiderman' held after Malaysia Twin Towers climb

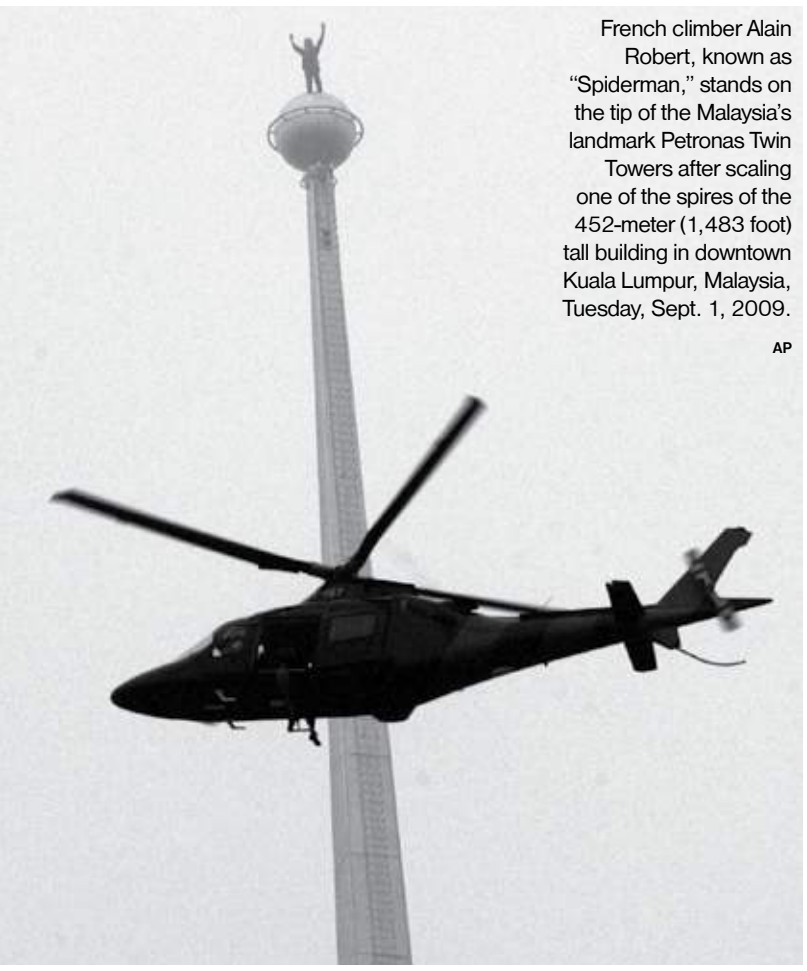
KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Police arrested a French climber nicknamed "Spiderman" on Tuesday after he scaled Malaysia's iconic 88-story Petronas Twin Towers.

Alain Robert sneaked past security early Tuesday to climb to the top of Tower 2 of the landmark buildings in Kuala Lumpur before he was detained, said city Police Chief Muhammad Sabtu Osman.

Robert is being investigated for criminal trespass, which carries a maximum jail term of six months and a 3,000 ringgit ($850) fine, he said.

Robert has already tried to climb the Twin Towers twice but only reached the 60th floor both times before he was arrested. His last attempt was in 2007.

The 47-year-old has climbed more than 70 skyscrapers worldwide, including the Empire State Building, the Sears Tower and Taipei 101, according to his Web site.



French climber Alain Robert, known as "Spiderman," stands on the tip of the Malaysia's landmark Petronas Twin Towers after scaling one of the spires of the 452-meter (1,483 foot) tall building in downtown Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2009.

AP

Duggar brood keeps growing with No. 19 on the way

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—No. 19 caught Michelle Duggar by surprise. The 42-year-old mom of 18 noticed that she wasn't losing weight—even though she and husband Jim Bob were on Weight Watchers—and her youngest child, 8-month-old Jordyn-Grace, was fussing while nursing. In the past, she found a fussy infant meant a change in breast milk that came with pregnancy.

So she took a pregnancy test. "And lo and behold, I was just pleasantly surprised that this was positive," Duggar said Tuesday. "I was just jumping up and down going, 'Thank you, Lord. Here am I—42, thinking my baby days are over—and you've blessed us with another one.'"

Michelle and Jim Bob Duggar live in Tontitown, Ark., and are featured with their family on TLC's "18 Kids and Counting."

The announcement of the Duggars' 19th child comes as their oldest, 21-year-old Josh, is about to become a father himself. Married last year, Josh and Anna Duggar are expecting their first child, a girl, on Oct. 18.

The grandchild—whom Josh and Anna plan to name Mackynzie—will be about five months older than her future aunt or uncle, due March 18.

AP

Michelle Duggar, left, is surrounded by her children and husband Jim Bob, top left, while she holds her newborn daughter, and 17th child, Jennifer Danielle, in Rogers, Ark. Michelle Duggar, the 42-year-old Arkansas mom of 18 and a soon-to-be grandmother, is pregnant again, she said Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2009.

Michelle Duggar said her health is fine and the pregnancy is going along just like the others—with a decent bout of morning sickness.

"I am just so grateful that I have good health thus far and I'm just enjoying playing with my kids every day," she said. "I don't take that for granted one bit. I still have a lot of energy left."

They're soliciting name suggestions for the new baby, who will join their family of 10 boys and eight girls. The Duggars' 18 children all have names starting with the letter J and include two sets of twins. Along with Josh and Jordyn-Grace, the family includes: Jana and John-David, 19; Jill, 18; Jessa, 16; Jinger, 15; Joseph, 14; Josiah, 13; Joy-Anna, 11; Jeremiah and Jedidiah, 10; Jason, 9; James, 8; Justin, 6; Jackson, 5; Johannah, 3; and Jennifer, 2.

The Duggars live in a 7,000-square-foot house in northwest Arkansas, where they manage commercial real estate property. They say they'll keep welcoming more children as long as Michelle is able to have them.

Michelle Duggar says they're recognized regularly thanks to the TLC show.

"We feel like it's just an opportunity to encourage families to enjoy their children, enjoy children while they have them and realize that they are a gift from God," she said. "That's our prayer. This is an opportunity to just encourage others to value family and just enjoy the time you have with them."

In Humble Gratitude

Words cannot adequately express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to all our relatives and friends for the kind expression to us on the death of our beloved Brother,

Lorenzo Aldan Ayuyu.

Thank you for sharing our sorrow. Your most comforting expression of sympathy, kindness, prayers and thoughtfulness are more deeply appreciated than any words of thanks can ever be expressed.

Please be assured that you will always be remembered in our thoughts and prayers.

The final eighteenth day mass will be on Monday, September 7, 2009 at 6:00pm at Santa Soledad Church.

Thank you and God Bless you all.

The Family

Ousted Ill. governor explains himself in new book

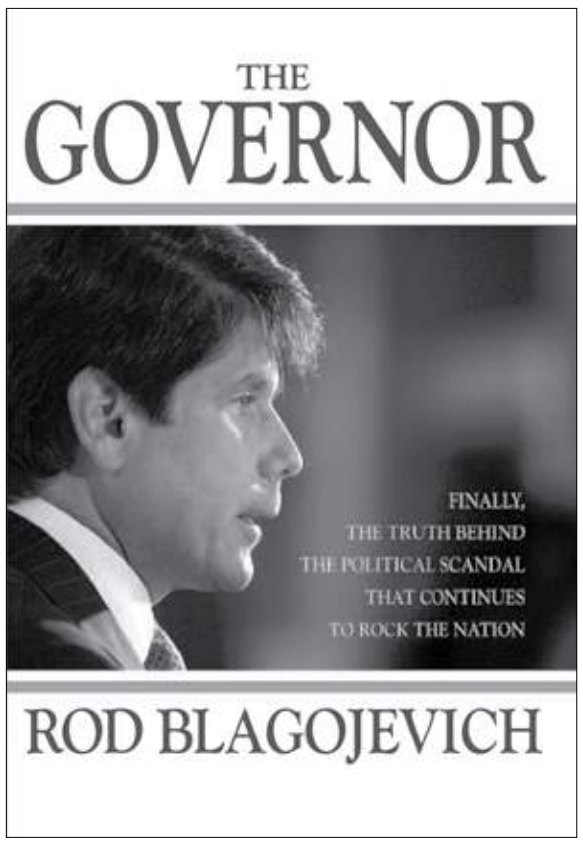
CHICAGO (AP)—Ousted Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich says in a new book that White House chief of staff Rahm Emanuel wanted his help in arranging to leave the Obama administration after two years to reclaim his seat in Congress.

Blagojevich writes in "The Governor" that Emanuel spoke with him about whether it was possible to appoint a "placeholder" to the congressional seat Emanuel was giving up so that he could win back the seat in 2010 and continue his efforts to become speaker some day.

"As we have done for many months, we will continue to decline comment," Emanuel spokeswoman Sarah Feinberg said in an e-mail Monday.

Blagojevich also admits that he wanted something in exchange for appointing President Barack Obama's replacement in the Senate, but it wasn't the deal described in federal corruption charges against him.

The Chicago Democrat says that the night before his arrest in December, he had launched a plan to appoint Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan to the Senate seat because he hoped to cut a deal on pet projects with her father, powerful Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan.



AP

In this book cover image released by Phoenix Books, "The Governor," by former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich, is shown.

That plan was ruined by his arrest. Blagojevich writes that he eventually appointed Roland Burris, in part because of Burris' famously big ego. No one else but Burris would accept the appointment and fight to be seated under the circumstances, Blagojevich says.

Burris' office declined to comment.

The ex-governor's 264-page book, published by Phoenix, comes out Sept. 8. It offers a benign picture of events surrounding Blagojevich's arrest in a corruption scandal that U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald said would make Abraham Lincoln "roll over in his grave."

The scandal cost Blagojevich his job when lawmakers impeached and threw him out of office in January. The once-rising political star is scheduled to stand trial next year. Blagojevich, who has pleaded not guilty, repeatedly asserts his innocence in the book.

He says his discussions about Obama's possible successors amounted to "ordinary and routine politicking."

But federal authorities cast it in a much different light, alleging Blagojevich was caught on FBI wiretaps discussing what he could get in exchange for the seat, from jobs to campaign contributions.

Blagojevich says that story is "upside down" and that he never asked for, or raised the subject of, campaign contributions in exchange for the Senate seat.

Others approached his administration with offers of campaign money, he says in "The Governor" without naming names. "If anyone should have been charged with a crime for this, it should have been them and not me," he writes.

First Death Anniversary

In Loving Memory of

Juan Manibusan Diaz

We would like to invite our relatives and friends as we commemorate the eternal life of our Father/Grandfather/Great Grandfather.

Daily Mass of Intentions will be offered at 6:00 a.m. at San Jose Church beginning Thursday, September 3 through September 11, 2009 except Sunday, September 6, 2009, (7:30 a.m. Mass).

Rosary will be said at 7:00 p.m. at the family residence in Oleai.

On Friday, September 11, 2009 Mass of intention will be celebrated at 6:00 p.m. at San Jose Church and dinner will immediately follow at the family residence.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

I Familia

Madonna wrapping up world tour in Israel

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)—Madonna brought her mix of provocative music and spirituality to the Holy Land with a concert Tuesday in front of 50,000 fans who had endured a 16-year wait since the pop icon's last gig in Israel.

Madonna is wrapping up her worldwide "Sticky & Sweet" tour with two concerts this week in a country whose place at the heart of the Mideast conflict has made it more of a magnet for diplomats than big-name performers.

Madonna took the stage about a half hour late Tuesday night, opening with her 2008 single, "Candy Shop" and moving through a tightly choreographed performance that included a series of colorful costumes—beginning with a skimpy, black body suit with fishnet stockings and knee-high boots—and range of hits, new and old.

"I shouldn't have stayed so long away," she told the adoring crowd midway through the show, as she broke away from the script to express her affection for the country.

"Every time I come here, I get so supercharged with energy," she said. "I truly believe that Israel is the energy center of the world. And I also believe that if we can all live together in harmony in this place, then we can live in peace all over the world."

The 51-year-old entertainer has long claimed a special bond with the Jewish state.

She's been dabbling in Kabbalah, a form of Jewish mysticism, for more than a decade and has taken on a Hebrew name, Esther. She's come on private pilgrimages in recent years. She has visited the Jewish holy site at the Western Wall in Jerusalem since arriving in Israel on Sunday.

Madonna was scheduled to perform again on Wednesday at Tel Aviv's Hayarkon Park, the same outdoor site as Tuesday's show.

"One of the reasons she attracts such large crowds is that she has a special connection to Israel," said Chen Shasha, a 24-year-old law student attending the concert. "Israelis appreciate the fact that someone appreciates them and approaches them and is willing to look into things such as Kabbalah."

Israeli radio stations played Madonna songs through the day Tuesday, and recorded Madonna tunes greeted concertgoers as they lined up to enter the concert grounds. On Israel's Army Radio, a DJ interrupted a song briefly to quip that "tonight, Aunt Esther is playing at Hayarkon Park."

Late Monday, the pop diva dined with Israel's moderate parliamentary opposition leader, Tzipi Livni, at Madonna's request, Livni spokesman Gil Messing said. Her main political rival, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, will receive Madonna at his Jerusalem residence on Friday.

Madonna last performed in Israel in 1993 but came on private pilgrimages in 2004 and 2007 along with other Kabbalah devotees.

U.S. singer Madonna performs during her concert in Tel Aviv, Israel, Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2009. The concert is part of Madonna's Sticky and Sweet Tour.

AP

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Final Destination 4

Friday		4:25	7:20	9:30
Saturday	1:30	4:25	7:20	9:30
Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:20	
Mon. thru Thurs.		4:25	7:20	

Bobby Campo, Shantel VanSanten
Supernatural • Rated R

Synopsis

On what should have been a fun-filled day at the races, Nick O'Bannon has a horrific premonition in which a bizarre sequence of events causes multiple race cars to crash, sending flaming debris into the stands, brutally killing his friends and causing the upper deck of the stands to collapse on him. When he comes out of this grisly nightmare Nick panics, persuading his girlfriend, Lori, and their friends, Janet and Hunt, to leave... escaping seconds before Nick's frightening vision becomes a terrible reality. Thinking they've cheated death, the group has a new lease on life, but unfortunately for Nick and Lori, it is only the beginning.

★ ★ ★

Shorts

Friday		4:10	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:05	4:10	7:15	9:55
Sunday	1:05	4:10	7:15	
Mon. thru Thurs.		4:10	7:15	

Jimmy Bennett, Jake Short
Children • Rated PG

Synopsis

Eleven-year-old Toe Thompson is the designated punching bag for the bullies of the suburban community of Black Falls, where his and everyone else's parents work for Black Box Industries, makers of the do-it-all gadget that's sweeping the nation. But during a freak storm, a mysterious Rainbow Rock, which grants wishes to anyone who finds it, falls from the sky. Suddenly, the neighborhood that Toe already thinks is weird is about to get a lot weirder.

Inglourious Basterds

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon. thru Thurs.		4:00	7:00	

Brad Pitt, Diane Kruger
Political • Rated R

Synopsis

In the first year of the German occupation of France, Shosanna Dreyfus witnesses the execution of her family at the hand of Nazi Colonel Hans Landa. Shosanna narrowly escapes and flees to Paris where she forges a new identity as the owner and operator of a cinema. Elsewhere in Europe, Lieutenant Aldo Raine organizes a group of Jewish American soldiers to perform swift, shocking acts of retribution. Later known to their enemy as "the basterds," Raine's squad joins German actress and undercover agent Bridget von Hammersmark on a mission to take down the leaders of the Third Reich.

District 9

Friday		4:05	7:10	9:50
Saturday	1:10	4:05	7:10	9:50
Sunday	1:10	4:05	7:10	
Mon. thru Thurs.		4:05	7:10	

Sharito Copley, Jason Cope
Sci-Fi • Rated R

The Time Traveler's Wife

Friday		4:20	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:25	4:20	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:25	4:20	7:05	
Mon. thru Thurs.		4:20	7:05	

Rachel McAdams, Eric Bana
Drama, Romance, Sci-Fi • Rated PG 13

G-Force

Friday		4:15	7:30	9:45
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:30	9:45
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:30	
Mon. thru Thurs.		4:15	7:30	

Nicolas Cage, Steve Buscemi
Action, Animated • Rated PG

G.I. JOE

Friday		4:30	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:20	4:30	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:20	4:30	7:25	
Mon. thru Thurs.		4:30	7:25	

Dennis Quaid, Channing Tatum
War • Rated PG 13

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Jay-Z to give Sept. 11 benefit concert in NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—A benefit concert that rapper Jay-Z is planning for Sept. 11 is a step in the direction that his career—and life—is heading in, he said Monday.

The 39-year-old is set to release his 11th studio CD, "The Blueprint 3," the same day of the charity concert, which has been billed as "Answer the Call." The performance will be at New York's Madison Square Garden and air live on Fuse TV.

Jay-Z

"The first 'Blueprint' was a return to my roots, like those soul samples my mom and pop listened to, and now on this one we're becoming those guys we looked up to on all those records," he said. "It's my evolution and it's me now in the forefront, not as the performer who looked back ... but me taking the initiative being the one, and being the icon, or being the philanthropist," he said in an interview after a news conference Monday.

Jay-Z was joined by his wife, singer Beyonce Knowles; Gov. David Paterson; Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta and Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer. Jay-Z said he will donate all proceeds from the concert to the New York Police and Fire Widows' and Children's Benefit Fund. Tickets are being sold for $50, and the show is expected to raise $750,000 to $1 million.

Paterson says the rapper is best person to perform because of his connection to young people.

"It is outstanding that perhaps a younger audience, one that needs to know the dangers of terrorism and also the benefits of the freedom this country allows, (will experience this) all in one night," he said.

"He has a message. He's a great performer. He's very sensitive to the problems of other people," Paterson added.

Jay-Z, a Brooklyn native, has sold out Madison Square Garden seven times. He said plans to perform material from his new CD, and like many concerts in New York, fans can expect him to bring out special guests.

"I'm trying to put that together," he said.

Erich Kunzel, Cincinnati Pops director, dies at 74

CINCINNATI (AP)—Erich Kunzel, the award-winning conductor who headed the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra since it was founded three decades ago and who won international fame through sales of more than 10 million recordings, has died at age 74.

Kunzel was diagnosed with liver, colon and pancreatic cancer in April but continued conducting while undergoing treatment. He died Tuesday morning at a hospital near his home in Swan's Island, Maine, said Chris Pinelo, a spokesman for the Cincinnati Pops.

On July 4, Kunzel conducted a concert at the U.S. Capitol with Aretha Franklin. He had led the National Symphony on the Capitol lawn in nationally televised Memorial Day and Independence Day concerts since 1991.

This year, he also conducted a concert in Beijing, where he and the Cincinnati Pops last year performed in opening festivities for the Summer Olympics.

Kunzel also led the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Boston Pops in many performances.

AP

This Aug. 1, 2009 photo provided by the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra, shows Erich Kunzel, center, the award-winning conductor of the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra.

Born in New York City, Kunzel was educated at Dartmouth, Harvard and Brown universities and began his professional conducting career in 1957 with the Santa Fe Opera. He moved to Cincinnati in 1965 as assistant conductor to Max Rudolf, the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra's former music director. The Cincinnati Pops Orchestra was officially established in 1977 with Kunzel as conductor.

The Cincinnati classical pops ensemble has been one of the most active in the world, maintaining a year-round performing and recording schedule and making numerous television appearances. Kunzel recorded more than 125 albums and was named Billboard Magazine's Classical Crossover Artist of the Year for four consecutive years.

Jackson death certificate reflects homicide ruling

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CERTIFICATION OF VITAL RECORD

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

PHYSICIAN/CORONER'S AMENDMENT

☐ BIRTH ☒ DEATH ☐ FETAL DEATH

TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY IN BLACK INK ONLY – THIS AMENDMENT BECOMES AN ACTUAL PART OF THE OFFICIAL RECORD

PART I INFORMATION TO LOCATE RECORD

NAME OF DECEDENT – FIRST	MIDDLE	LAST	SUFFIX
MICHAEL	JOSEPH	JACKSON	M

DATE OF DEATH	CITY OF DEATH	NAME OF HOSPITAL
06/25/2009	LOS ANGELES	LOS ANGELES

PART II STATEMENT OF CORRECTIONS

ITEM		
107A	DEFERRED	ACUTE PROPOFOL
		INTOXICATION
		UNKNOWN
		BENZODIAZEPINE EFFECT
		HOMICIDE
		06/25/2009
		LUNG
		AS ABOVE
		INTRAVENOUS INJECTION BY ANOTHER
109		1104 NORTH CAROLWOOD
		DRIVE LOS ANGELES, CA
		90077

I HEREBY DECLARE UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY THAT THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE

[redacted] 08/31/2009 DME

ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
1104 NORTH MISSION ROAD	LOS ANGELES	CA	90033

[redacted] 08/31/2009

1090071SS

This is a true certified copy of the record filed in the County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services if it bears the Registrar's signature in purple ink.

SEP - 1 2009

Director of Health Services and Registrar

This copy not valid unless prepared on engraved border displaying seal and signature of Registrar

INFORMATIONAL, NOT A VALID DOCUMENT TO ESTABLISH IDENTITY

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson's death certificate has been amended to reflect his cause of death as a homicide, specifying "injection by another" as the fatal injury.

The designation was not a surprise—coroner's officials said last week that they believed Jackson's death on June 25 was a homicide.

Investigators have said a mix of the powerful anesthetic propofol and another sedative killed the pop singer. The new record lists "acute propofol intoxication" as the main cause of death and "benzodiazepine effect" as another significant contributor.

The public copy of Jackson's death certificate has not been changed to reflect his permanent resting place. Jackson is scheduled to be interred on Thursday evening at Forest Lawn Glendale.

The document does not mention Dr. Conrad Murray, who was Jackson's personal physician. He told detectives that he gave the singer a series of sedatives and propofol to try to help him sleep.

The coroner's determination of homicide makes it easier for prosecutors to seek criminal charges, but does not necessarily mean a crime was committed. Authorities investigating the singer's death have served search warrants in at least three states, California, Nevada and Texas.

No criminal charges have been filed over Jackson's death.

This photo released by the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2009, shows Michael Jackson's amended death certificate that reflects his cause of death as a homicide, specifying "intravenous injection by another" as the fatal injury.

AP

AP

In this April 14, 2008 file photo, singer LeAnn Rimes and her husband Dean Sheremet arrive at the 2008 CMT Awards in Nashville, Tenn.

Phil Spector being moved to different prison

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Music legend and convicted murderer Phil Spector, who complained recently about his prison quarters but later said he wanted to stay put, is being moved to make room for inmates requiring outpatient mental health treatment, a corrections spokeswoman said Tuesday.

"It's not about Spector. It's about getting services to other inmates," said California Department of Corrections spokeswoman Terry Thornton.

Spector and other prisoners will be going to Pleasant Valley State Prison in Coalinga, where the other most notorious prisoner is Erik Menendez, convicted with his brother Lyle of murdering their millionaire parents in 1993. Spector's transfer will occur this week.

Spector, 69, has been at the California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility and State Prison at Corcoran.

Thornton said Spector will be in a "sensitive needs yard" comparable to the one where he has been in Corcoran due to his notoriety.

Spector had complained about being in a prison that houses "gangsters and Manson types" and said he was trying to get to a better prison.

But when authorities questioned him about his complaints, they said he had decided he wanted to stay at the institution.

Spector, a music producer, is serving 19 years to life for the murder of actress Lana Clarkson.

Rimes announces her divorce on her Web site

LOS ANGELES (AP)—LeAnn Rimes and her husband are getting divorced. The 26-year-old country singer made the announcement on her Web site Tuesday. In a message to her fans, Rimes wrote: "After much thoughtful mutual consideration, Deane and I have agreed to move forward with dissolving our marriage."

Rimes and backup dancer Dean Sheremet were married in February 2002. Tabloid reports have linked Rimes with actor Eddie Cibrian, her co-star in the TV movie "Northern Lights." Cibrian filed for divorce from his wife of eight years, Brandi, last week.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Revival of 'Angels in America' set for off-B'way

NEW YORK (AP)—"Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes" will fly again in New York—off-Broadway. The mammoth, two-part drama by Tony Kushner will be presented by the Signature Theatre Company during its 2010-2011 season as part of a yearlong celebration of the playwright. Artistic director James Houghton (HOW'-tuhn) says the play's two parts, "Millennium Approaches" and "Perestroika" will be performed in rep. No casting was announced, but the play, a tale of AIDs in the Age of Reagan, will be directed by Michael Greif, who also directed "Rent" and "Next to Normal." The Tony and Pulitzer Prize-winning "Angels" was first seen on Broadway in 1993 and later was made into an HBO film starring Al Pacino and Meryl Streep.

'Mad Men' renewed for fourth season on AMC

LOS ANGELES (AP)—AMC is advertising the good news for "Mad Men"—the 1960s Madison Avenue drama will return for a fourth season. The TV series debuted as a low-rated, critical darling but has seen its audience grow at the start of its third season. The early renewal lets viewers know the retro saga will continue next year, AMC said Tuesday in announcing its decision. "Mad Men," which last year drew fewer than 2 million viewers per episode, attracted an audience of 2.8 million for the Aug. 16 season premiere. The series has registered an impact beyond its numbers. The reigning best-drama Emmy winner is up for the honor again at the Sept. 20 awards ceremony, and its period fashions have been cited as an influence by designers.

Jerry Springer to host live 'America's Got Talent'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jerry Springer is coming back in the "America's Got Talent" fold—this time hosting a live version of the TV talent contest in Las Vegas. Springer, who served as host of "America's Got Talent" for two seasons on NBC, will emcee the Las Vegas show at Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino starting in October. It will run for at least 10 weeks, a spokesman for the show said Tuesday. Springer left the TV series to appear on stage in the musical "Chicago." His Broadway stint as flashy lawyer Billy Flynn wraps Sunday. Last year, Springer was the host for a single presentation in Las Vegas of "America's Got Talent Live." The new run starts Oct. 7 and include shows Wednesday through Sunday.

Hill near 'E.T.' home like 'surface of the moon'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"E.T." may not have to worry about his former California home. The owner of the house featured in "E.T. The Extra Terrestrial" says the Station Fire burned near his home near Tujunga Canyon, but he can no longer see the flames. Tony Piwowar (PY'-woh-wahr) says the charred hill behind his house in the Seven Hills neighborhood now looks like "the surface of the moon." Piwowar says he evacuated his wife and pets, but he stayed behind with his son to monitor the fire. Piwowar says he's lived in the house located on a cul-de-sac since 1987. The home was featured in scenes from the 1982 film directed by Steven Spielberg, including the hallmark moment when scientists quarantined it.

Woman refuses phone calls from anyone except boyfriend

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My older sister does not pick up her phone unless her boyfriend calls. They have a system worked out to let her know when it's him. She has an answering machine, but its message limit is always full.

She has told everyone that, in case of emergency, they should contact her neighbors, her employer, the police, or—if she is camping—the campground police.

Since when is it the responsibility of others to take and deliver messages for her when she makes herself unavailable? What makes it worse is she has a quadriplegic son in frail health who lives on his own with a caregiver. Although my sister makes medical decisions for him, the caregiver is never certain whether Sis can be reached if needed.

Abby, how do you handle such a person?

DISGUSTED IN UTAH

DEAR DISGUSTED: Your sister is sending a strong message that she doesn't want to be disturbed, nor does she want any real contact with you. I'd "handle it" by taking a giant step back emotionally and contacting her only in case of emergency, in the manner she has requested.

The caregiver is another matter. Because of the son's frail health, the caregiver should be able to speak directly to your sister in the event that an emergency should arise that requires an immediate medical intervention.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a 59-year-old woman who has been dating men in their 40s. At first, I refused because I thought they were too young for me and people might laugh. Since then, I have decided that as long as they know from the beginning that I'm not looking for a serious committed relationship, I'd be happy to go out. I have made some great friends and had some great times.

Abby, why do you think younger men are attracted to older women? I'm not exceptionally pretty nor do I have a great body, but I am a caring, fun person who loves music and dancing. Do you think you could poll your readers and get some feedback from men who date older women as to why they do?

"COUGAR" IN NEW YORK

DEAR "COUGAR": Lord, I hate that word because it implies (to me) that the older woman is somehow predatory, and the men who find her attractive are helpless prey.

If I were to hazard a guess, I'd say it's because many older women are independent, self-confident, worldly and not looking for commitment. Those qualities can be very attractive if a man isn't looking for commitment either.

Men, I'll be interested in your comments.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have just learned that my husband has lung cancer. He has known for almost a year and decided to keep it to himself.

We have been separated for a while, and he lives in another town nearby. We have two children—both in their teens. I am the only person who knows about his illness.

He has decided not to follow his doctors' advice and is using an alternative treatment. I love him dearly, and I think he should tell the kids. He refuses. Don't you think they have a right to know? Please help me!

CARRYING A HEAVY BURDEN

DEAR CARRYING: Your children should definitely know, and the person who should give them that information is their father. People often take for granted that their time with the people they love is infinite, and your children are no exception. If their father's time is limited, they might want to spend as much of it as they can with him—and your husband should allow them to do it. The memories they make during this precious time may be all they have of their father.

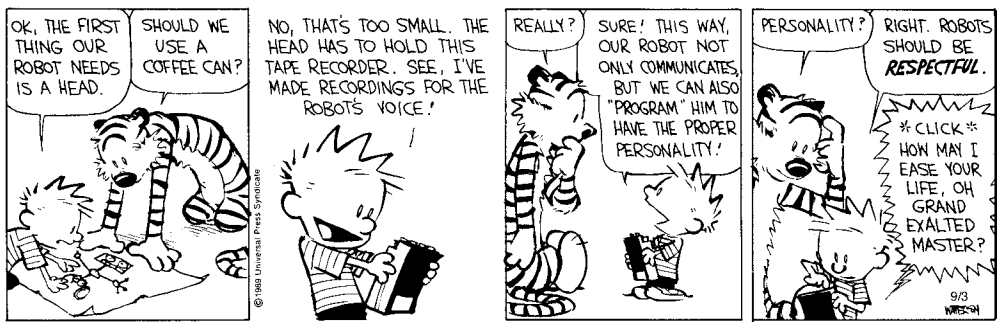
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


OK, THE FIRST THING OUR ROBOT NEEDS IS A HEAD.
SHOULD WE USE A COFFEE CAN?
NO, THAT'S TOO SMALL. THE HEAD HAS TO HOLD THIS TAPE RECORDER. SEE, I'VE MADE RECORDINGS FOR THE ROBOT'S VOICE!
REALLY?
SURE! THIS WAY, OUR ROBOT NOT ONLY COMMUNICATES, BUT WE CAN ALSO "PROGRAM" HIM TO HAVE THE PROPER PERSONALITY!
PERSONALITY?
RIGHT. ROBOTS SHOULD BE RESPECTFUL.
CLICK HOW MAY I EASE YOUR LIFE, OH GRAND EXALTED MASTER?
9/3
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Garfield®

By Jim Davis

YAAAAAAH!
HEY, THE LEFTOVER CANARY IN THE REFRIGERATOR IS MINE, PAL!
JIM DAVIS 9.3
© 2009 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
www.garfield.com
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

ADAM. MAYBE WE SHOULD CALL THE REPAIRMAN.
OH NONSENSE. I SEE THE PROBLEM... IT JUST NEEDS A BELT.
YES... YES A BELT WOULD BE GOOD, HERE.
9-3
www.gocomics.com
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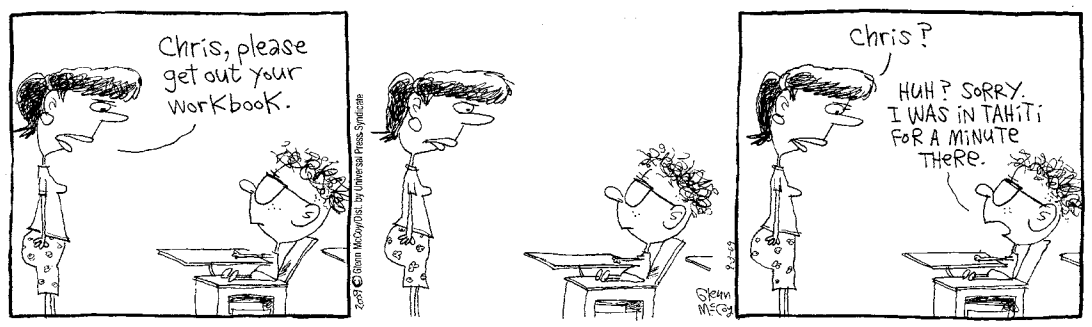
The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


Chris, please get out your workbook.
Chris?
HUH? SORRY. I WAS IN TAHITI FOR A MINUTE THERE.
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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 PC program
4 Delves
8 Carnelian variety
12 Chum
13 Worshipped one
14 Rip
15 "Merci"
17 Top-notch
18 "... or — to be"
19 1/100 of a mark
21 Quarterback Troy
24 Craze
25 Banned insecticide
26 Gratuity
28 Lukewarm
32 Shaving cream additive
34 "Phooey!"
36 Gaelic
37 Copycat birds
39 Profit
41 Pub order
42 Squealer
44 "A Few Good Men" director
46 Bankrupt
50 Wapiti
51 Eager
52 Free-mail privilege
56 Infamous lyre player
57 Surpasses
58 Caspian, e.g.
59 Metric measure
60 Agile
61 Height of fashion?

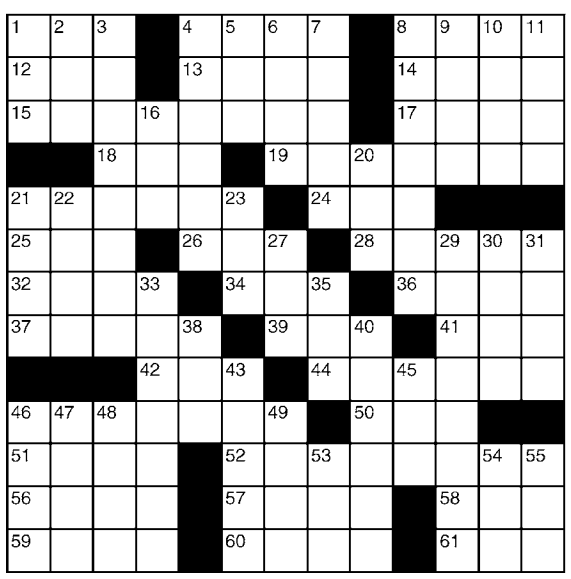
DOWN

1 Suitable
2 Oom follower
3 Krill, e.g.
4 Harsh decree
5 Slick, maybe
6 Yucky stuff
7 Form of tobacco
8 Seatless passenger
9 Very long time (Var.)
10 Hindu royal
11 Bottom-of-the-barrel bit
16 Artesian appellation
20 Nosh
21 Leading man?
22 Without acting
23 Pen point
27 Skillet
29 Mischievous
30 Man is one
31 Bambi, e.g.
33 Peer's place, perhaps
35 That girl
38 Put into words
40 Wee
43 University near Boston
45 Sort
46 Gunshot sound
47 Always
48 Old Italian money
49 Item on stage
53 Spring mo.
54 Born
55 Whale group

Solution time: 25 mins.

C	B	S	■	M	U	L	E	■	I	D	L	E
R	A	W	■	I	L	E	X	■	T	O	A	T
U	S	A	■	S	T	O	P	W	A	T	C	H
D	E	B	I	T	■	■	O	I	L	■	■	■
■	■	■	B	R	A	S	■	G	I	F	T	S
M	I	S	M	A	T	C	H	■	C	I	A	O
U	S	E	■	L	A	R	U	E	■	A	L	P
S	L	A	T	■	D	O	G	P	A	T	C	H
H	E	L	O	T	■	D	O	I	N	■	■	■
■	■	■	R	A	T	■	■	T	Y	K	E	S
S	A	S	Q	U	A	T	C	H	■	O	R	E
T	H	O	U	■	R	O	U	E	■	O	N	E
Y	A	L	E	■	T	O	R	T	■	K	E	N

Yesterday's answer 9-3



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kiran Desai, 38; Charlie Sheen, 44; Valerie Perrine, 66; Eileen Brennan, 77

Happy Birthday: The more you separate yourself from the crowd, the better. Present with confidence whatever you want to pursue. You have a good plan and your sound way of approaching whatever you feel will bring you good results should be sufficient to get things off the ground. Set your course for future success. Your numbers are 9, 11, 15, 23, 37, 40, 42

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Talks will lead to a better relationship with friends, lovers and your peers. Be open about the way you feel and how you see things unfolding in the future. The input you get back will help you establish what you should do next. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Get involved in something you feel strongly about and you will make a difference. The knowledge and experience you gain will help you in your personal and business life. Taking action will show others that you are capable of being a leader. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You could easily make a mistake if you are too giving of your time, money or skills. By taking a professional approach, you stand a better chance of getting a proposal that will compensate you and allow you to help a cause you believe in. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You may be put in an awkward position if someone wants you to do something that is a little different or too exotic for you. Sticking around home can be fun if you plan to do things with someone who means something to you. Don't argue, just do what suits you best. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You can come up with some moneymaking ideas if you look at what you have and what you can use to service others. Your entertaining personality will capture someone's interest. You will benefit from an unusual source. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't leave anything to chance. Look at every means available in order to get the upper hand professionally. Perfection and detail will count and will lead to a better position in the end. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You should do something nice for yourself. Buy something that will make you feel good or sign up for a course that will raise your self-esteem or enhance your skills. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You'll have to watch what you do, say and promise at home or to people with whom you are personally contracting. Don't leave anything to the imagination. Overspending, overdoing and over consuming will all lead to loss. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Think before you speak. An emotional situation will cause you grief if you make a promise in the heat of the moment. Keep things honest and refrain from committing to something that you know you will not do. ✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You are sitting in a good position, so be prepared to follow through even if it means someone else's loss. You have played a fair game and it's time to collect what's owed to you. Don't give in to someone trying to play on your emotions. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): False pretenses will lead to a parting of the ways between you and someone you care about. Be ready to compensate someone you jilted, even if it was unintentional. Clarify exactly what you have to offer. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You'll be emotional regarding a relationship and how you are being treated. Consider your own actions before you point the finger at someone else. Don't feud over stupid, trivial annoyances. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a take-charge individual. You will stand up for your beliefs and aren't afraid to fight back. You are a humanitarian and a reformist.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	5		2		4		7	
					9			
		1				6		
8	2							4
			8	1	5			
3							9	6
		2				5		
			9					
	9		6		7		3	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	1	6	2	7	9	3	5	4
9	4	5	3	8	6	2	7	1
7	3	2	5	1	4	8	9	6
1	9	7	8	4	2	5	6	3
3	5	4	9	6	7	1	8	2
2	6	8	1	5	3	7	4	9
4	8	1	6	2	5	9	3	7
6	2	9	7	3	8	4	1	5
5	7	3	4	9	1	6	2	8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/02

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

DEEP-FRIED PICKLES **Solution: 8 letters**

S	C	A	S	S	N	O	I	L	L	A	D	E	M	P
T	O	K	P	S	E	L	B	B	I	N	T	L	A	A
N	O	U	N	P	P	C	O	B	O	B	A	B	Y	P
A	K	Y	T	U	E	R	I	A	A	E	O	A	O	E
R	N	C	N	H	D	T	I	P	M	R	C	T	N	R
U	G	A	I	R	E	R	I	N	S	E	S	E	N	A
A	N	C	P	M	L	R	R	Z	K	K	I	G	A	P
T	I	I	I	E	I	O	N	A	E	L	D	E	I	E
S	D	L	C	U	C	U	M	B	E	R	E	V	S	R
E	A	E	A	R	I	U	C	S	R	E	P	P	E	P
R	E	D	U	N	O	R	A	N	C	H	I	L	L	S
O	R	M	H	I	U	M	U	S	T	A	R	D	W	(S)
T	B	S	L	N	S	A	L	T	S	U	R	C	O	(T)
S	A	S	C	U	L	I	N	A	R	Y	A	S	B	(I)
W	E	H	C	A	T	S	U	P	P	O	W	D	E	(R)

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Abobo, Appetizer, Bars, Bowl, Breading, Catsup, Chew, Chill, Coat, Cook, Cornmeal, Crumbs, Crunch, Crust, Cucumber, Culinary, Delicacy, Delicious, Dunk, Lime, Make, Mayonnaise, Medallions, Mustard, Nibble, Oils, Paper, Peppers, Pint, Powder, Prepare, Ranch, Restaurants, Rinse, Sacs, Salt, Saucepan, Side, Southern, Spices, Sprinkle, Stir, Store, Vegetable, Wash

Yesterday's Answer: Planners

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WHATZIT Solution: Put it in writing

EMPLOYMENT

Wanted Live-In Houseworker for Marven Avilla (retired American) pls go personally at Apartment C-209 Finasisu Terraces.

BAR FOR SALE
CLUB BILLY BONES
LOCATED IN GARAPAN
✦ COMPLETE TURNKEY OPPORTUNITY
✦ PRICED FOR QUICK SALE
CONTACT MARY @ 287-4299

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Over the limit. Under arrest.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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• 3-Liner	**$25**
• 5-Liner	**$35**
• 3-Liner with picture	**$45**
• 5-Liner with picture	**$55**

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Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Hamels tosses 2-hitter in Phillies victory

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Cole Hamels allowed just two hits and Ryan Howard drove in the only run with a fourth-inning double as the Philadelphia Phillies beat the San Francisco Giants 1-0 in the National League on Tuesday.

Hamels (8-8) allowed a leadoff double to Ryan Garko in the second inning and a single to pinch-hitter Rich Aurilia to start the ninth. He struck out nine and walked one in his fourth career shutout and second this season. The left-hander extended his scoreless innings streak to 19, tying a career best, and won for the first time since July 28 against Arizona.

Jonathan Sanchez (6-11) was the hard-luck loser for the Giants. He allowed one run and three hits, striking out eight in six innings.

AP

San Francisco Giants' pinch runner Andres Torres, top, reacts after getting caught stealing second base as Philadelphia Phillies shortstop Jimmy Rollins holds up the ball in the ninth inning of a baseball game, Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2009, in Philadelphia.

Rockies 8, Mets 3

At Denver, Todd Helton homered and drove in four runs to help Colorado snap a five-game losing streak by beating New York.

Carlos Gonzalez also homered for the Rockies, who grabbed sole possession of the wild-card lead as they started a 10-game homestand against losing teams.

Jason Giambi made his Rockies—and National League—debut in the seventh when he batted for the pitcher with the bases loaded and drew a four-pitch walk from Sean Green.

Cardinals 7, Brewers 6

At St. Louis, Matt Holliday's three-run homer snapped a seventh-inning tie as St. Louis beat Milwaukee.

Albert Pujols added his major league-leading 42nd homer for the Cardinals, who are a major league-best 26-9 since acquiring Holliday in a July 24 trade with Oakland. They are 30-4 since July 1 in starts by their big three — Adam Wainwright, Chris Carpenter and Joel Pineiro (14-9).

Cubs 4, Astros 1

At Chicago, Randy Wells became the first Cubs rookie in 11 years to reach 10 wins with another strong outing and Milton Bradley homered as Chicago downed Houston.

In his previous two starts against the Astros, Wells (10-7) pitched 14 scoreless innings. This time, he allowed just an unearned run and seven hits in 6 2-3 innings.

Kerry Wood was the last Cubs rookie to win 10 games, in 1998. Wells is Chicago's first 10-game winner this season. Carlos Marmol pitched a scoreless ninth for his seventh save.

Reds 11, Pirates 5

At Cincinnati, Craig Tatum drove in four runs to double his previous career total and Justin Lehr overcame control problems as Cincinnati sent Pittsburgh to its sixth consecutive loss.

The Pirates are four defeats shy of becoming the first major American professional team to string together 17 straight losing seasons. Cincinnati has won three straight and eight of 10.

.

Braves 4, Marlins 3

At Miami, Tim Hudson pitched effectively into the sixth inning in his return to the majors, lifting the Atlanta Braves to a 4-3 victory over the Florida Marlins on Tuesday night after a nearly three-hour rain delay.

Hudson (1-0) gave up six hits and two runs in 5 1-3 innings in his first big league start since having elbow ligament replacement surgery almost 13 months ago.

Padres 4, Nationals 1

At San Diego, Clayton Richard took a shutout into the seventh inning and fellow rookie Will Venable drove in a run and made another spectacular catch, helping the San Diego Padres to a 4-1 win over the Washington Nationals on Tuesday night.

Richard (4-1) got two outs in the seventh before Josh Bard homered to left field to cut the Padres' lead to 2-1. Richard was replaced by Adam Russell , who retired pinch-hitter Willie Harris on a line drive

Red Sox 8, Rays 4

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Jonathan Papelbon pitched Boston out of an eighth-inning jam, and Jason Bay, J.D. Drew and Kevin Youkilis homered Tuesday to help the Red Sox beat the Tampa Bay Rays 8-4 in the opener of a series crucial to the American League wild-card race.

Papelbon entered with two runs in and the bases loaded with no outs and shut down the AL champions in the eighth with help from a diving catch by center fielder Jacoby Ellsbury, who snared Jason Bartlett's sinking liner before scrambling to his feet to keep a runner from tagging up at third.

Yankees 9, Orioles 6

At Baltimore, Jorge Posada homered twice, and Nick Swisher and Eric Hinske hit successive drives in a three-run seventh inning that carried New York past Baltimore for its fifth straight win.

Robinson Cano also connected for Yankees, who will try to complete a three-game sweep Wednesday.

Rangers 5, Blue Jays 2, 1st game
Rangers 5, Blue Jays 2, 2nd game

At Arlington, Texas, Josh Hamilton hit two home runs and Brandon McCarthy pitched into the seventh inning of his first start in nearly three months as Texas beat Toronto for a doubleheader sweep.

Hamilton had gone 23 games and 99 at-bats since his previous homer Aug. 7 until a 435-foot drive on the first pitch of the fourth.

Tigers 8, Indians 5

At Detroit, Placido Polanco and Carlos Guillen homered on successive pitches, and Brandon Inge also went deep to lift Detroit over Cleveland.

Aubrey Huff added three RBIs for Detroit, which won its second straight.

Edwin Jackson (11-6) allowed four runs on nine hits in five innings, walking two and striking out six. Fernando Rodney pitched the ninth for his 30th save in 31 chances.

Twins 4, White Sox 3

At Minneapolis, pinch-hitter Jose Morales singled home Nick Punto with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning to lift Minnesota past Chicago for their ninth win in 11 games.

Jason Kubel led off the ninth with a single off Matt Thornton (6-3) and Punto was inserted as a pinch runner. He advanced to third on a single by Brendan Harris, but Tony Pena got Carlos Gomez swinging to take away the sacrifice option.

Royals 4, Athletics 3

At Oakland, Alberto Callaspo hit a go-ahead two-run single in the sixth, Kyle Davies struck out six and won consecutive starts for the first time all season for Kansas City.

Davies (6-9) again looked sharp after beating the Seattle Mariners at Safeco Field on Aug. 27. The right-hander, making his sixth start since being recalled from Triple-A Omaha on Aug. 5, struck out five or more for the fourth time in five starts—four of those on the road. Davies allowed one run and four hits in six innings and walked two.

Mariners 2, Angels 1

At Seattle, Jose Lopez's two-out double in the seventh inning made rookie Doug Fister a winner and sent the Seattle Mariners to yet another one-run victory.

Fister (2-1), making his fifth major league start, held what was the highest-scoring team in the majors entering the game to just one run and five hits in 7 1-3 innings.

Dodgers 4, Diamondbacks 3

At Los Angeles, Matt Kemp homered for the fourth consecutive game and Andre Ethier(notes) drew a bases-loaded walk that forced in the go-ahead run in the seventh inning, sending the Los Angeles Dodgers to a 4-3 victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks on Tuesday night.

Clay Zavada issued the key walk to Ethier, who notched his team-high and career-best 88th RBI for the NL West leaders.

T'Wolves say Rubio backed out of chance to play

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—After saying all summer long that his preference was to play in the NBA, Ricky Rubio apparently got a case of cold feet at the last minute.

Less than 48 hours after the Timberwolves, Rubio's agents and the Spanish team DKV Joventut agreed in principle on a deal to bring the 18-year-old point guard to Minnesota, Rubio changed his mind.

He told Timberwolves president David Kahn on Monday night that he wanted to stay in Spain for the next two years to better prepare for life in the NBA - a blow to a team that was hoping to have the popular passer on the court this fall.

"Of course there's disappointment, but I don't think that disappointment should overshadow the big picture, which is, he's still so young," Kahn said Tuesday during a call from Spain, where he spent the weekend negotiating the deal. "It appears now we will have a two-year wait. But if you frame it as he'll be 20 years old and he'll have two more years to develop, I can think of a lot worse things to happen to us as a franchise."

The Timberwolves drafted Rubio fifth overall in June, even though he was still under contract with DKV Joventut in a deal that included a $8.1 million buyout clause. Kahn made three trips to Spain over the summer to try and help Rubio's representatives negotiate that number down, a process that was hindered by NBA guidelines limiting the amount of money Minnesota could contribute to $500,000.

Kahn said Rubio's agent, Dan Fegan, delivered a package of endorsement deals and sponsorships that helped make the NBA deal attractive enough for Rubio and Joventut to enter into an agreement on Saturday night.

When Rubio backed out of the deal, DKV Joventut reluctantly agreed to trade him to rival Regal FC Barcelona, which will pay $5.3 million to buy out his contract. The buyout, Kahn said, is the largest in European basketball history.

In a statement, Joventut noted the "big effort" by everyone to reach a deal.

"In front of this situation, and in contradiction with what he has been saying to us and to Timberwolves' representatives from time to time, the player has announced the decision that he wants to be transferred to FC Barcelona," the team said.

The deal with FC Barcelona requires Rubio to stay in Spain through the 2010-11 season, at which time the buyout price tag plummets to about $1.4 million. That's a much more manageable number for Rubio to afford, but he said he was more concerned about being ready for the NBA.

"The reason leading me to take this next step is to have a period of preparation to better take the challenge of the NBA in better conditions as a player," Rubio said in a statement. "The Minnesota Timberwolves continue to be my first option and I wish to play with them in the near future."

So what changed between Saturday and Monday?

Kahn said Rubio and his family were receiving pressure from his Spanish national team teammates, members of the Spanish media and other people in their hometown to stay in Spain.

Stylish Sharapova returns to US Open with win

NEW YORK (AP)—Maria Sharapova simply couldn't bear the thought of a U.S. Open taking place without her.

So while sidelined with a torn shoulder a year ago, she refused to follow the tournament on TV. Basically pretended it wasn't even happening.

On Tuesday night, Sharapova was right where she likes to be: on the Grand Slam stage and in the spotlight. The 2006 U.S. Open champion returned to the tournament with an impressive 6-3, 6-0 victory over Tsvetana Pironkova of Bulgaria.

"I was in the physical therapy office every single day, and the tennis was on. But I made a point not to watch it," Sharapova explained. "When you're not participating in a tournament that you very much love, and you've had success at, as an athlete and as a competitor, to not be there and not be competing is pretty tough."

Against her 98th-ranked opponent, Sharapova's game was as glittery as her black-and-silver dress, an outfit she described as a tribute to New York's skyline. The three-time Grand Slam title winner produced 29 winners - 23 more than Pironkova. And Sharapova's game was particularly clean in the second set, when she hit 16 winners and only five unforced errors.

Apart from four double-faults, Sharapova showed no signs of the shoulder injury that forced her to have surgery in October and kept off the tour for nearly 10 months.

"This is a Grand Slam. You've got to get going from the first match," Sharapova said. "After being gone, this is what it's all about."

Tell that to Ana Ivanovic. Or Dinara Safina.

Earlier Tuesday, Safina came perilously close to becoming the first No. 1-seeded woman to lose in the U.S. Open's first round. But she eked out a victory over an 18-year-old from Australia who is ranked 167th and needed a wild-card invitation to get into the tournament.

The worst showing ever by a top-seeded woman in New York came last year, when Ivanovic exited in the second round. Now seeded 11th, Ivanovic did herself one worse this time, losing in the first round to 52nd-ranked Kateryna Bondarenko 2-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7).

"It hurts. I can tell you that," Ivanovic said. "I'm sure I will have sleepless nights."

At least the 2008 French Open champion had a big support group in the stands, cheering for her wildly. Safina, in contrast, would look up at her coach for positive body language, and instead, he'd cover his eyes with his hands or turn his head with a wince.

Nearly undone by 11 double-faults and 48 total unforced errors, Safina was a point away from a 4-0 deficit in the third set before coming back to beat Olivia Rogowska 6-7 (5), 6-2, 6-4.

Safina, younger sister of 2000 U.S. Open champion Marat Safin, is used to faring well in the early stages of Grand Slam tournaments. Usually, it's later on that problems arise: She is 0-3 in major finals, all lopsided losses, and managed to win only one game against Venus Williams in the Wimbledon semifinals in July.

"I was surprised that, you know, she was giving me free points," said Rogowska, who never has defeated anyone ranked better than 47th.

As Rogowska spoke, her eyes were red, and she fiddled with a well-worn tissue.

"I'm disappointed I lost," she said, "and I didn't expect to say that after playing the No. 1 player in the world. It's a bit weird."

Ivanovic was not the only seeded player who was upset: 276th-ranked Jesse Witten of Naples, Fla., knocked off No. 29-seeded Igor Andreev of Russia 6-4, 6-0, 6-2; Nicolas Lapentti beat No. 19 Stanislas Wawrinka 4-6, 3-6, 7-6 (6), 7-6 (3), 6-3; and Ivan Navarro beat No. 27 Ivo Karlovic 6-4, 7-6 (8), 7-6 (5).

Yanina Wickmayer of Belgium defeated No. 16 Virginie Razzano of France 6-4, 6-3; and Shahar Peer of Israel eliminated No. 32 Agnes Szavay of Hungary 6-2, 6-2.

Otherwise, winners included 2004 U.S. Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova, past runners-up Elena Dementieva and Jelena Jankovic, No. 9 Caroline Wozniacki and No. 13 Nadia Petrova.

Men's winners included No. 2-seeded Andy Murray, last year's U.S. Open runner-up, who beat Ernests Gulbis of Latvia 7-5, 6-3, 7-5 in Tuesday night's last match.

Also advancing were 2008 Australian Open champion Novak Djokovic and that tournament's runner-up, Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, along with No. 10 Fernando Verdasco, No. 11 Fernando Gonzalez, No. 16 Marin Cilic, No. 17 Tomas Berdych, No. 22 Sam Querrey of Thousand Oaks, Calif., and Taylor Dent of Newport Beach, Calif.

Dent, playing in the U.S. Open for the first time since 2005, eliminated Feliciano Lopez of Spain 4-6, 7-6 (6), 6-3, 7-5.

Neither Safina nor Rogowska played particularly well. They combined for 24 double-faults, 113 unforced errors and 15 service breaks over 2 1/2 hours.

"I put a lot of pressure on her serve," Rogowska said, "and it seemed to crumble a bit."

Afterward, Safina found two things to be happy about: She didn't break any rackets—something big brother Marat is known for—and she didn't receive any warnings from the chair umpire. So, yes, the mental fragility she's acknowledged is an issue for her on court was a factor in her play, but at least Safina managed to keep it in check.

Maria Sharapova, of Russia, returns to Tsvetana Pironkova, of Bulgaria, during a match at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2009.

AP

Roddick prevails in late night match

NEW YORK (AP)—This edition of "Late Night with Andy Roddick" ended at 12:45 a.m., and the 2003 U.S. Open champion loved every minute of it.

Still, Roddick wouldn't mind if the U.S. Tennis Association occasionally put the men's match on court before the women's match during the Grand Slam tournament's evening sessions.

"It's all part of it. Kind of the crazies that stay till 1 in the morning—there's something fun about that," Roddick said after winning his first-round match at the U.S. Open in straight sets.

Because of an opening-night ceremony featuring Andre Agassi, followed by a victory by Venus Williams that lasted more than 2 1/2 hours, Roddick was forced to wait until after 11 p.m. Monday night to get on court in Arthur Ashe Stadium for the last match on the schedule. He then made quick work of 84th-ranked Bjorn Phau of Germany, beating him 6-1, 6-4, 6-2.

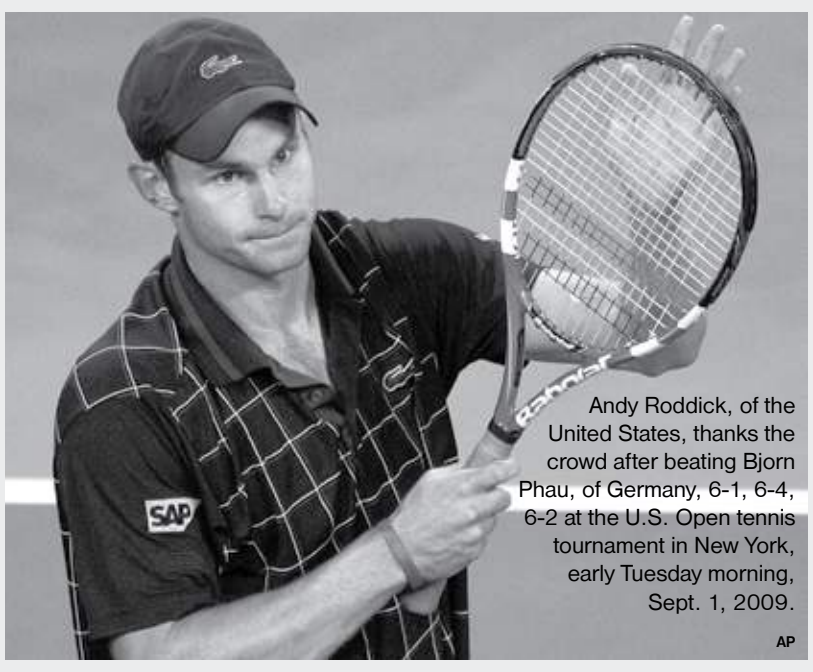
Pounding serves at up to 145 mph, Roddick finished with 13 aces. He put 81 percent of his first serves in.

The stands were less than half-full by the end. Those fans that stayed were loud, though, supporting the highest-seeded American.

"It's just unique. You play in all sorts of atmospheres. There's not as many people, but the ones that are there sure are vocal-slash-drunk," Roddick said.

"I guarantee half the people out there were probably here all day, too. They have to be pretty passionate and really enjoy what they're seeing and the whole experience of it," he added. "It's 1 in the morning. I guarantee you, they all have to work tomorrow. They certainly have to get up earlier than I do."

The USTA has said it is planning to have a men's match precede the women's for one or two night sessions during this U.S. Open.



Andy Roddick, of the United States, thanks the crowd after beating Bjorn Phau, of Germany, 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, early Tuesday morning, Sept. 1, 2009.

AP

Goodell: NFL teams could face TV blackouts

ASHBURN, Va. (AP)—Avoiding local television blackouts will be a challenge as the NFL approaches its first full season in the economic downturn, commissioner Roger Goodell said Tuesday.

During a visit to the Washington Redskins, Goodell was asked specifically about the Jacksonville Jaguars, whose season-ticket base dropped from 42,000 to about 25,000 this season. The decline is such that the club might not even bother asking for extensions in hopes of avoiding blackouts this year.

Goodell said Jacksonville, one of the smallest markets in the league, is "one of the markets where we're seeing some challenges from ticket sales coming into the 2009 season."

"And we'll have other markets that'll have those challenges. It's all part of the challenges that we're seeing in the economy, and what our clubs are going through," Goodell said. "Our clubs have been working hard in the offseason to create other ways to try to get people in the stadiums and to have policies that are a little more flexible, and hopefully they're going to pay dividends for us."

The San Diego Chargers had an exhibition game blacked out for the first time since 2006 and will have Friday's game blacked out as well. They say regular-season blackouts could be on the way as well. Other teams that could have trouble selling out their home games include the Detroit Lions and Oakland Raiders, who both had blackouts last season.

The Cleveland Browns nearly had their first blackout since 1995 for a preseason game last month, but Goodell said some of the August ticket sales could be attributed to the nature of exhibition football.

"I think the fans have seen that the quality of the games aren't up to NFL standards, so I think that's a factor," said Goodell, who is looking at the possibility of reducing the preseason and expanding the regular season.

Goodell had a meeting planned in Washington with NFL Players Association executive director DeMaurice Smith. Goodell said it was more of a get-together than a formal negotiating session. The NFL and the union have been talking about a new labor agreement in hopes of avoiding a lockout in 2011.

"Anytime you're negotiating you take a step forward and maybe a step back," Goodell said. "We're communicating, we're trying to get information to the union leadership, make sure they understand the challenges we're facing as a system and as a business and make sure they understand that so we can design a system that addresses the issues for the players and the coaches and the game."

Ethan Albright, the Redskins' interim player representative to the union, said this week he was telling his teammates to save up their money because the word from Smith is "the owners are taking all the steps to set up for a lockout in 2011."

"Listen, I think everybody in the NFL wants to play," Goodell said. "The owners want to play, the players want to play. It's our job to get a deal done. That's why I keep saying a lockout is not a strategy, nor an objective. What we want to do is get an agreement that works for the players and the coaches and the game and allows to continue to grow it."

Asked about Michael Vick, Goodell said the Philadelphia Eagles quarterback is "making the right kind of progress." Goodell said he will consider Vick for full reinstatement to the NFL by no later than Week 6 of the regular season.

"A lot of those issues I'm focusing on are off the field. How is he dealing with the transition? Does he have his family relocated? Does he have the right people around him helping him make decisions?" Goodell said. "Tony Dungy's been incredibly helpful. Donovan McNabb's been helpful. I talk to Michael on a weekly basis, if not more. I'll be meeting with him again sometime in the near future. ... He's focused on the right things."

Goodell said he's been hearing a lot of questions from players about the league's steroids policy, rules changes, and the possibility of a lockout. An unusual question came from Redskins rookie defensive lineman Jeremy Jarmon.

"He was talking about how we have rules to protect the quarterbacks," Goodell said. "And that you need more rules to protect defensive ends."

Roach: Cotto will last distance vs Pacquiao

BOXING

Freddie Roach's crystal ball, so clear in Manny Pacquiao's last three fights, appears hazy this time.

The training guru does not see Pacquiao stopping Miguel Cotto in their 12-round showdown for the Puerto Rican's World Boxing Organization welterweight crown on Nov. 14 in Las Vegas.

In a surprising detour from his earlier prediction of a knockout victory for the Filipino superstar, Roach told David Tyler of doghouseboxing.com Monday that the Pacquiao-Cotto bout at the MGM Grand will go the distance.

Roach was proven correct in his previous predictions of KO wins by Pacquiao over David Diaz, Oscar De La Hoya and Ricky Hatton.

This time, Roach said his prized ward, the pound-for-pound king, is in for "the toughest fight of his life" against Cotto, who is staking his title at a catch weight of 145 pounds.

The American trainer said that Pacquiao will still emerge the victor, though.

ious fights, including those of his lone loss to Antonio Margarito and his close victory over Joshua Clottey, Roach said he knows how Pacquiao could win.

Roach said he prefers that Pacquiao train outside the Philippines to make up for lost time. He said there are too many distractions in the country for Pacquiao.

Still busy with his commitments in the country, Pacquiao plans to leave for Los Angeles on Sept. 8, but won't start training until after a tour to drum up the fight on Sept. 15.

"I will do my job and get him ready for the fight, but I prefer Mexico," said Roach.

Pacquiao

Pacquiao usually trains in Roach's Wild Card Gym in Hollywood, but restrictions on length of stay in the United States for non-residents will prevent the Filipino from returning to Wild Card for the first five weeks of his eight-week training camp.

SPARKS

From Page 28

in the second half with Manglona, Hossain, Mettao, and Thomas Castro escaping with easy layups.

In the first four minutes of the second half, the Sparks managed to take an 18-4 lead, before Chris Barry's banked triple from the right key gave the Young 670 Rollers 3 its first field goal in that canto.

However, Barry's trey failed to start a Young 670 Rollers 3' rally, as the rest of his teammates could not get their offensive games going.

The Young 670 Rollers 3' total output against the Sparks was way below its production in its first game last week. The Young 670 Rollers 3 tallied 35 points in its loss to the Runnin' Rebels and had five players making at least two field goals each.

Against the Sparks, only Cenir and Savili Talalemoto drilled more than a field goal with the former finishing with six points and Talalemoto adding five.

Manglona was the lone double figure scorer for the Sparks with 12 points, but he drew support from four of his teammates. Hossain nailed nine, Mettao logged eight, and Castro and Norita chipped in seven and four markers, respectively.

Action in the 18-and-under caging continues tonight with two scheduled games. In the first game, the Runnin' Rebels will take on the Celtics, while the second match will have Ol'Aces meeting the G-Stars. Tomorrow, the Saints will duel the Sixers.

Kagman Sparks 48 – E. Manglona 13, Hossain 9, Mettao 8, Castro 7, Norita 4, M. Manglona 2, Babauta 2, Pagarao 2.

Young 670 Rollers 20 – Cenir 6, Talalemoto 5, C. Barry 3, Baka 2, Norita 2, Diaz, 2.

Scoring by quarters: 8-3, 48-20.

MP UNITED

From Page 28

mer now has a 7-2-2 slate.

MP United, which recorded its first two wins in the second round against KFAS, 7-2, and Independents, 1-0, drew two goals from CNMI National Team member Joe Miller.

Miller broke the ice in the sixth minute of the first half and had his second goal eight minutes later for MP United's 2-0 halftime lead.

Tiger Lee made it to the scoreboard in the first minute of the second half for a 3-0 MP United lead and it took a while before the team found the back of the net, again. Dae Min Jeon gave MP United its fourth goal in the 65th minute.

Inter Godfather's then prevented a shutout loss after Chris Nelson scored in the 70th minute.

Remington 4, Korean Juniors 2

In the second game, Remington bounced back from its loss to Matansa Football Club with a 4-2 triumph over Korean Juniors.

Thoengaket Jeeraphong made all Remington's goals, drilling two apiece in the first and second half. His first two goals came in a span of nine minutes with his first shot going in in the 14th minute and the second one in the 23rd minute.

Jeeraphong gave Remington a 3-0 lead when he completed a hat trick with another goal in the 42nd minute of the second half.

Lim Jae Hyuck ended Korean Juniors silence with his goal in the 58th minute, but Jeeraphong scored, anew after four minutes to keep Remington's distance.

The last goal of the game was made in the 78th minute, courtesy of Korean Junior's Brian Ko.

The win was Remington's fourth in 10 games, putting the team to third place. The loss forced Korean Juniors to share second place with MP United, as the former dropped to a 5-1-3 slate.

Independents 1, Matansa 0

In the curtain-raiser, Independents also recovered from its previous loss after outclassing Matansa, 1-0.

Jason Schroeder scored the lone winning goal for Independents in the 55th minute, giving his team its fourth victory in 10 games.

Independents remained in sixth place with its 13 points, while Matansa is still at the bottom of the team standings with its 3-1-6 slate.

SEMAN

From Page 28

the 12 monthly Ace winners vying for the perpetual trophy. Wabol, who won the year-ending event in 2008, is reminding monthly winners to meet the required number of tournaments to gain an official entry to the club championships.

Wabol, RGA's tournament director, said monthly winners must play in at least six tournaments to claim a berth in the December event. Failing do to so will result in disqualification and will give the runner-up of the monthly tournament the slot to the club championships.

Ten members joined RGA's August Ace tournament last weekend with Wabol tying Rogolifoi for the lowest net score. However, Wabol's net 36 on the front nine helped him win the tiebreak. The 2-handicapper Wabol was consistent with his game at MCC, drilling a 37 on both nines for a gross 2-over par 74.

Rogolifoi, a 13-handicapper, tallied a 48 on the front and 47 on the back for a gross 85 to settle for second place. Third placer Seman started with a 41 on the front nine and improved his game a bit on the back with a 40 for a gross 81.

The seven other RGA members who competed for the monthly plum were Ray Villagomez (net 79), Vince Attao (75), Joe Wabol (82), Sonny Flores (81), Tom Tebuteb (79), Manny Mangarero (81), and Tars Olopai (80).

Flores won the closest to the pin contest on hole No. 6, while Villagomez prevailed on hole No. 12.

Meanwhile, the RGA September Ace Qualifying Tournament will be held on Sept. 13 at the Coral Ocean Point course. Check-in time is at 10am, while tee off is set for 11am.

Next month, the club will be holding the RGA Memorial Classic at the Kingfisher Golf Links. The tournament is set for Oct. 24 and has an $80 entry fee.

For more information about RGA tournaments, contact president Jordon Kosam at 483-4506

SGA September Ace Sunday

The September Ace will be at stake this Sunday when Saipan Golfers Association holds a tournament at Coral Ocean Point course.

Check-in time is 9am, while tee off is at 10am.

Winner of this weekend's tournament will not only get a monthly plum, but will also qualify for the 2009 SGA Ace of the Aces Tournament.

The club championship will be played in December for two rounds.

This year's defending champion is Joe Demapan.

For more information on SGA tournaments, contact Larry Guerrero at 256-1052. (***PR***)

Registration on going for Banzai Half Marathon

Registration for the 4th Powerade Banzai Memorial Off-Road Half Marathon & Fun Run is on-going and will last before races start on Sept. 12.

Registration is at 5:30am, while the half marathon will start at 6am and the fun run at 7am. Entry fee is $15.

All proceeds will be used to bring inaugural XTERRA Saipan winner Jamie Whitmore to Saipan for the 2010 edition of the Crown Jewel and the Tagaman Triathlon either as a regular participant or guest.

This year's defending champions are Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel and Mamiko Oshima-Berger.

Kabiriel, who is also known as "Road Runner Bunny" topped last year's Banzai race in one hour, 31 minutes, 50 seconds, breakings his 2007 record of 1:31:51. ***(PR)***

MDX

From Page 28

down the defending champion in the league," said Siriban, adding their victory would have been made sweeter if some of their big men gained individual awards.

"We were sort of disappointed when the likes of Bernardo and Demapan failed to bag individual awards. These guys helped us sweep the regular season and the series. It would have been better if they were also recognized for their outstanding games," said Siriban, who thanked Chow Queen's Ricardo Castro for helping the team.

Abuel and Tamayo were the two major individual awardees for MDX with the former taking the regular season MVP plum and making it to the Mythical Five and the latter nailing the Finals MVP trophy.

Joining Abuel in the Mythical Team were SIP's Elmer Esdrelon, NMBA's Gil Gapor, VisMinda's Jawn Joyner, and Bayani's Ronald Delos Reyes.

Other awardees were Sonny Lerio (best in triples), Leo Factor (free throws), Delos Reyes (rebounds), Joyner (blocks), Abuel (assists), and Esdrelon (steals).

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	84	48	.636	–
Boston	77	54	.588	6 1/5
Tampa Bay	71	60	.542	12 1/2
Toronto	59	72	.450	24 1/2
Baltimore	54	79	.406	30 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	70	61	.534	–
Minnesota	67	65	.508	3 1/2
Chicago	64	69	.481	7
Cleveland	58	73	.443	13
Kansas City	51	81	.386	19 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	78	53	.595	–
Texas	74	58	.561	4 1/2
Seattle	69	64	.519	10
Oakland	58	74	.439	20 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	76	53	.589	–
Atlanta	70	62	.530	7 1/5
Florida	68	64	.515	9 1/5
New York	59	73	.447	18 1/2
Washington	46	87	.346	32

Central Division

St. Louis	78	55	.586	–
Chicago	66	64	.508	10 1/5
Milwaukee	64	67	.489	13
Houston	63	69	.477	14 1/2
Pittsburgh	59	73	.447	18 1/2
Cincinnati	53	78	.405	24

West Division

Los Angeles	79	54	.594	–
Colorado	73	59	.553	5 1/2
San Francisco	72	60	.545	6 1/2
Arizona	60	73	.451	19
San Diego	58	76	.433	21 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Philadelphia 1, San Francisco 2
Colorado 8, NY Mets 3
St. Louis 7, Milwaukee 6
Chi Cubs 4, Houston 1
Cincinnati 11, Pittsburgh 5
Atlanta 4, Florida 3
San Diego 4, Washington 1
Boston 8, Tampa Bay 4
NY Yankees 9, Baltimore 6
Texas 5, Toronto 2
Texas 5, Toronto 2
Detroit 8, Cleveland 5
Minnesota 4, Chi White Sox 3
Kansas City 4, Oakland 3
Seattle 3, LA Angels 1
LA Dodgers 4, Arizona 3

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

Rotary Standings

Sparks	2	0
G-Stars	1	0
Sixers	1	0
Sonics	1	0
Rollers 1	1	0
Runnin' Rebels	1	0
670 Rollers 2	1	1
Celtics	0	1
Saints	0	1
Ol'Aces	0	1
Young 670 Rollers 3	0	2
Hi-5	0	2

NMIFA Standings

	W	D	L	Pts.
Inter Godfather's	7	2	2	23
Korean Juniors	5	1	3	16
MP United	5	1	5	16
Remington	4	2	4	14
KFAS	4	0	6	14
Independents FC	4	1	5	13
Matansa FC	3	1	6	10

7th UFO Inter-Organizational Basketball League Finals

Photos by ROSELYN B. MONROYO

SIP's Leo Factor goes for a left-handed baseline layup against MDX's Wowie Abuel during Game 2 of their title series in the 7th United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Basketball League.

SIP's Alex Lauron pulls up for a shot against MDX's Ivan De Vero.

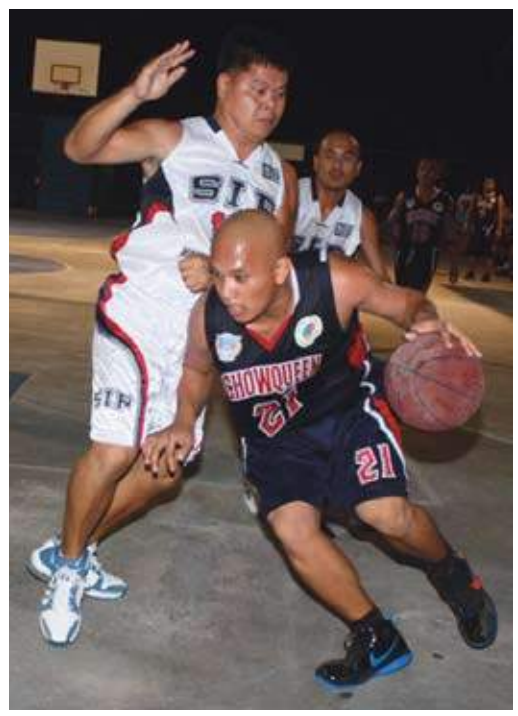
MDX's Banjo Basila looks for a teammate to pass the ball to, as he is trapped in the sideline by SIP's Alex Lauron.

MDX's White Capalad goes for a reverse layup.

SIP's James Villacrusis challenges the defense of MDX's Kae Bernardo.

MDX's Jun Pantaleon, left, and Kae Bernardo watch SIP's Peter Mendiola make a shot.

MDX's Ivan De Vero soars for a layup against SIP's Alex Lauron.



MDX's Bart Demapan, right, tries to escape from the defense of SIP's Junar Guiab.

SIP's Elmer Esdrelon is sandwiched by MDX' s Banjo Basila, (1), and Ivan De Vero, back.

SIP's Brendon Talania, left, plays tight defense against MDX gunner Bon Tamayo.

Roach: Cotto will last distance vs Pacquiao

Freddie Roach's crystal ball, so clear in Manny Pacquiao's last three fights, appears hazy this time.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Hamels tosses 2-hitter in Phillies victory

Cole Hamels allowed just two hits and Ryan Howard drove in the only run with a fourth-inning double as the Philadelphia Phillies beat the San Francisco Giants 1-0 in the National League on Tuesday.

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MDX-Chow Queen shares secret to series sweep

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MDX-Chow Queen named three key factors to its title sweep over Samahang Ilokano at Pangasinense in the open division of the 7th United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Basketball League.

First was having players steped up when needed.

In Game 1, Bon Tamayo rose to the occasion, giving MDX stalwarts Kae Bernardo and Wowie Abuel the needed help, offensively and defensively.

Tamayo sizzled for 33 points, killing SIP with his long jumpers and fastbreak layups in the second half. Before Tamayo's explosion, MDX collapsed in the second quarter, allowing SIP to take a 12-point lead at halftime, 48-36.

When the game resumed, Tamayo came up with successive steals to anchor MDX's comeback en route to a 100-93 win in Game 1.

In Game 2, Tamayo was a marked man, leaving bench players White Capalad and Banjo Basila to provide the needed backup for Abuel and company.

Capalad scored eight points in the second quarter when MDX started to recover from a slow start. Basila also had a couple of baskets, but was worthier on the defensive end, helping Bernardo and Bart Demapan hold SIP's big men.

Then there was Ivan De Vero, who had a quiet 10 points in Game 1, but delivered the important plays in the closing minutes of Game 2. De Vero came for the fouled out Basila midway in the fourth, canned the fastbreak basket that gave MDX the lead in the last 21 seconds of the final canto, and then stole the ball from James Villacrusis to secure the win.

MDX coach Joey Siriban also gave credit to their teamwork, as their unselfish plays make everybody on the team look good. Every offensive setup involved all five players on the court and help defense was a must.

There were even instances that MDX became too unselfishly, as instead of pulling up for shots, their players opted for extra passes, causing them to lose possessions.

The Siriban-coached MDX-Chow Queen is composed of newcomers in local caging, but they showed a heart of a veteran in eking out nerve-wracking wins.

"Trailing or leading, we never gave up. When we collapsed in the second quarter in Game 1, no one from the team thought that was it. Players on and off the court showed a strong fighting heart," Siriban said.

In Game 2, MDX was behind again most of the way before they recovered midway in the third for an 84-81 win.

"SIP played superb basketball in the first quarter of Game 2. However, the boys did not lose hope, as they knew they can catch up in the later part of the game. They continued playing harder, smarter, and with more teamwork to steal Game 2. We want Game 2 very badly, as we knew if the series will go to Game 3, SIP's championship experience will come into play," Siriban said.

SIP won the UFO caging in 2005 and 2006 and had two more titles in the first four stagings of the league.

"It gives us great pride to beat a tough team like SIP. It's an honor for a new team like us to

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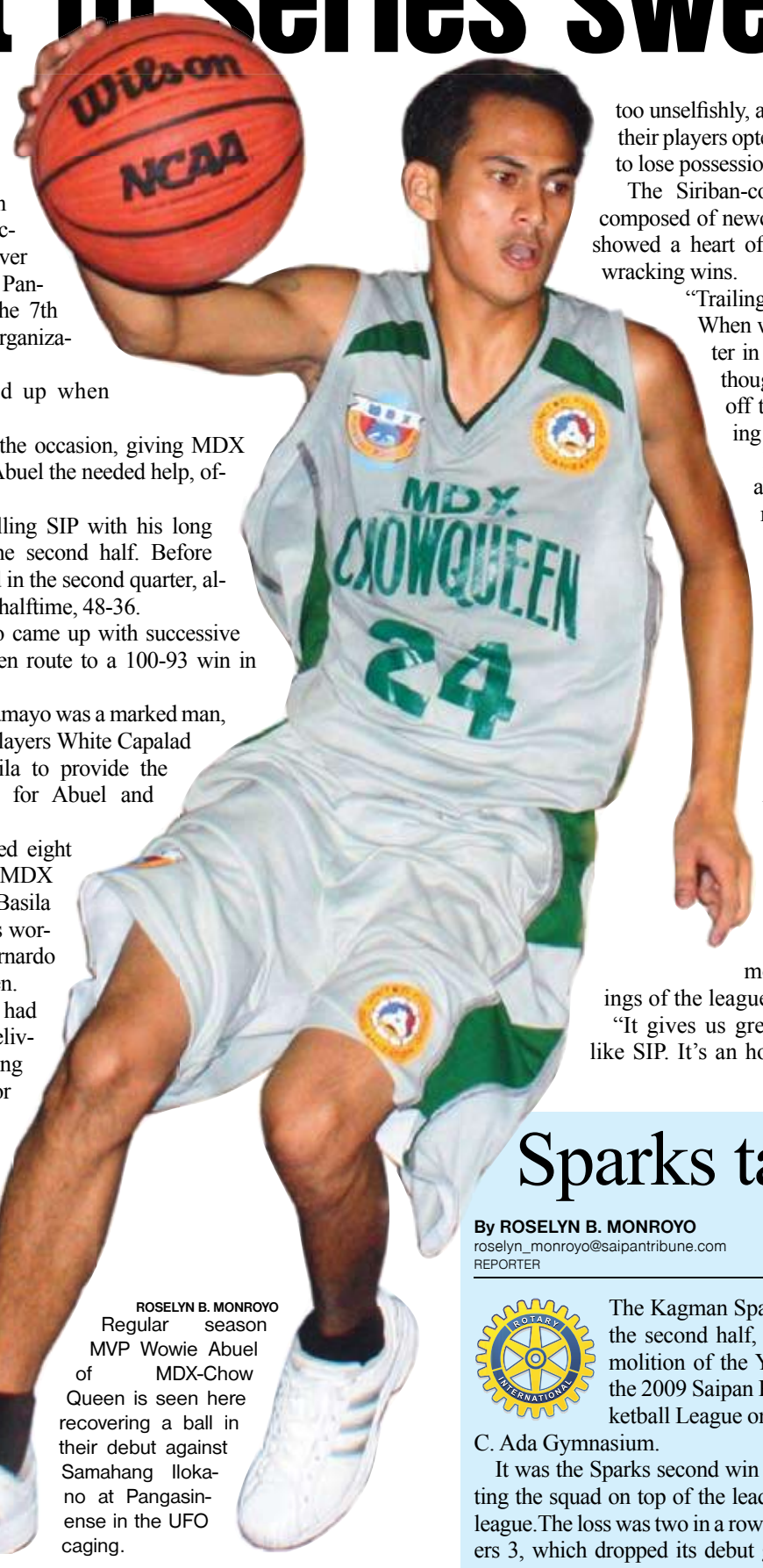

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Regular season MVP Wowie Abuel of MDX-Chow Queen is seen here recovering a ball in their debut against Samahang Ilokano at Pangasinense in the UFO caging.

MP United on a roll in men's football league

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MP United players go for a defensive formation during their game against Inter Godfather's in the first round of the regular season of the NMIFA men's league at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MP United continued its uphill climb in the second round of the regular season of the 2009 NMIFA Men's Football League, following a 4-1 win over Inter Godfather's on Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

The victory was three in a row for MP United, which four weeks ago was at the bottom of the team standings in the seven-squad league. Now, MP United is in second place with its 5-1-5 win-draw-loss record and 16 points.

Inter Godfather's remained on top with its 23 points, but absorbed back-to-back losses. Two weeks ago, Inter Godfather's bowed to Korean Football Association of Saipan, 0-1, and the for-

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Sparks take lead in Rotary caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Kagman Sparks were all fired up in the second half, leading to a 48-20 demolition of the Young 670 Rollers 3 in the 2009 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League on Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

It was the Sparks second win in as many games, putting the squad on top of the leaderboard in the 12-team league.The loss was two in a row for the Young 670 Rollers 3, which dropped its debut game last week against the Runnin' Rebels.

The Sparks, who prevailed in their first game over 670 Rollers 2 on Friday, 38-36, seemed headed for another close finish, as the former and the Young 670 Rollers 3 were off to a rough start.

The Sparks only scored eight points in the first half on Eugene Manglona, Jon Norita, Saj Hossain, and Frank Mettao's one field goal apiece.

The Young 670 Rollers 3 had a tougher time, offensively, as it was held to only three points in the first 20 minutes of the game. It continued to struggle in the opening minutes of the second half, making only a free throw off John Cenir in the first four minutes of that period.

In contrast, the Sparks started to find ways to score

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Kagman Sparks' Jon Norita pulls up for a shot against two Young 670 Rollers 3 defenders during their game in the Rotary caging on Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Seman keeps RGA August Ace

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Jesse Seman kept his hold on to the RGA August Ace title despite struggling in his return to the Marianas Country Club in Marpi on Sunday.

Seman shot a net 73 at MCC during the club's second tournament for August to finish only third behind Jess Wabol and Tony Rogolifoi. However, Wabol's best net 72 was still nine strokes short off the score to beat in the weekend tournament. The score to beat was 63, which incidentally the 8-handicapper Seman recorded in the first tournament for August after firing a 36 and 35 on the front and back nines of the Marpi course, respectively

With Seman keeping the August Ace plum, he also got a slot to the 2009 RGA Club Championships, joining the seven early monthly winners.

The club championships will feature

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